



SOCCER ACTION

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO. V8P0351

JUGOSLOVENSKA
SCENA:15

VIVA ITALIA:14

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ
ΣΕΛΙΣ:15

Vol. 8, No. 13

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL, 1983

603 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, ph. 60 0421

\$1 recommended
price only



One of the few times Footscray J.U.S.T. had the ball in its 0-4 loss to Marconi last Sunday: Kyri Kyriekoulas (right) takes it away from Mark Jankovics. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

Mike Channon to join Newcastle

Newcastle 2 West Adel 0

Venue: International Sports Centre.
Crowd: 2112.
Cowburn 70th, Brandt 79th.
Referee: Jim Reeves E.
Cautions: Mason (N), Atzalas, Amey (WAL).
NEWCASTLE KB UNITED: Goal-
ing 7 - Major 7, Burke 7, Watson
8, H. Tredinnick 8 - Cowburn 8,
Mason 7, Lee 8 (Brandt 72nd),
Jones 6 - Mountford 7, Lowe 6.
WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS:
Sprout 1 - McGachey 7 - McGre-
gor 6, Hiern 7, Dunn 6, Amey 7,
Brennan 6, Atzalas 6 - Hays 8,
Wormley 6 (Panagis 78th), Honey-
man 6.

Former England international Mike Channon will play for Newcastle KB United in June.

Newcastle will have him for four home matches and two away matches.

Channon, now with Norwich City, was with Southampton when he guested with KB two years ago.

His arrival will help solve a major problem in West Adelaide came to New-



Mike Channon

who engineered KB's victory over West Adelaide - leaves in June for the World Youth Championships in Mexico. Were Channon not coming, KB would not have had a suitable replacement for Lowe.

Such is Lowe's ability that I'm sure he would be playing for the senior national team against England were he not going away with the youth team.

West Adelaide came to New-

castle intent on grabbing at least one point, but although it assigned Hiern to mark Lowe, he had no hope of doing so for 90 minutes.

Lowe's first bit of magic resulted in a goal in the 70th minute. The little striker broke down the right on a pass from Mason, beat off challenges by Amey and McGachey, and sent a low cross to Cowburn who left-footed it into the net.

Nine minutes later, Lowe again broke away down the right and gave the ball to substitute Simon Brandt who goaled with his second kick of the game.

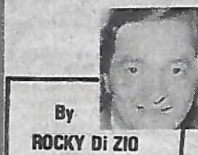
Brandt, who had been scoring regularly in Newcastle's youth team, had come on to replace David Jones.

Newcastle goalkeeper Phil Dando who failed to come to terms over a new contract early in the year, was seen speaking to West Adelaide coach Alan Vest and it wouldn't surprise if Dando were to join West Adelaide, as Martyn Cook is out for some time due to injury.

— JOE LANZONI

Spotlight on our ills:

Third in a 4
part series



By
ROCKY DI ZIO

Junior soccer in Australia is many things: a dream for sporting goods and trophy manufacturers; a huge kindergarten financed and run by volunteers; a source of incredibly good statistics to prove that the officials preaching the "gospel of soccer" in this continent are doing a first-class job; an illusion for some parents to see a selfish dream come true; and a tremendously hard testing ground for the physical and moral qualities of children. A soccer career is at the end of the line only for the relatively few who manage to get through it all.

For years now the number of juniors in Australian soccer has been in the hundreds of thousands but we still import a large number of average senior players from overseas. In fact, in Australia more children play soccer than any other sport, yet soccer is the only sport heavily reliant on imports for its senior teams!

No doubt the ready availability of accomplished overseas players prepared to come to Australia is partly responsible for this situation but if we had an abundance of home-grown soccer players who would worry about imports, apart from a few recognised stars like Roberto Vieri of old who are needed to inspire the locals and draw the crowds?

We have the numbers, we have ideal climatic conditions, we have one of the world's best diets, we have excellent basic facilities to help young sportsmen to mature. All this is proven in most other sports but in soccer the end results are appallingly poor. Obviously there must be faults in the system.

One of them must certainly be what is generally known as the "ugly parent" phenomenon. Those busy beavers who run canteens, who drive groups of kids across the suburbs to distant soccer grounds, who

spend evenings at meetings and most of their free time in building and upgrading facilities are, in general, the biggest problem in junior soccer.

People who have spent all their youth kicking a soccer ball without any success, who have followed a team and its stars for years, who have seen all the soccer games on television, have one burning ambition as soon as they become parents: their sons are going to be the Rossis, the Beckenbauers, the Mariners, the Keogans of the future. And the way they go about it is sufficient to turn youngsters away from soccer as soon as they get an opportunity to make their own choices, even if they have to wait until they are 18 or 20.

These parents drag their kids along to a soccer pitch as soon as they can walk, they give them soccer balls to play with (and to "coach" them with) and they dress them in soccer gear long before the kids have any chance of joining a team or of making a choice.

And when the great day comes and their sons actually take the field for the first game, visions of Rossi and Beckenbauer become ever so vivid, ever so real. The "ugly parents" then become so active within the club, so protective, patronising, and aggressive and the poor kids become pawns in what is nothing but the selfish dream of a soccer-crazy adult.

The fun goes out of the game and the pressures to succeed, to earn a place in the team, to score goals, make life miserable for many kids.

Playmates become competitors; enemies who keep you out of the team or try to get your place in it; coaches and officials are all against you; the other parents hate your guts! And your father is shouting instructions at you from the sideline, is running up and down to follow your movements, is arguing (or even fighting) with other parents, is hurling abuse at

the referee... and when the game is over and your team has lost and you have not scored goals, the drive home becomes a Calvary, dinner a session of torture and sleep a nightmare.

You feel like telling your father to stuff the soccer ball up his jumper, but you don't dare; you want to run over to the park and have fun with your school mates chasing a football, but that would break your father's heart; you wish they had never invented this stupid game and you hate it to the point that when you grow up you will not want to see a soccer ball again, not to mention setting foot on a soccer ground as a spectator.

But for the time being you have to go on, also because your father resorts to bribes, like \$5 a game and \$5 for each goal you score, and that's good money for a kid your age!

If some parents only knew the misery they are causing to their children! If they only realised that they are doing everything to make sure that their dream of a Rossi or Beckenbauer in the family will never come true! If they only stopped to think that the parents of the more successful boys act quite differently, or at least with much more finesse! Quite the contrary. They think the boys who are doing well are not better than their own children; it's just that their parents are pushing harder, are bribing coaches, are putting money into the club or are officials of the club. And off they go on a renewed effort to get on the right side of coaches, or to have them sacked, to chase positions in the committee or as team managers; to pour time and money into the club! And if all that still does not work, they drag their children off to another club, at times miles away from where they live, in the vain search for something that does not exist.

Some parents and coaches should definitely be charged with cruelty to children.

Federations and clubs do very little to discourage

the "ugly parent" syndrome in junior soccer because it brings in the numbers, the voluntary work and the funds to run the clubs.

Coaches do their best to combat it for a while, but eventually are engulfed by it and, sadly, at times become very much part of it.

And the end result is that it becomes a force in clubs and is reflected in its administration. You will find junior clubs where the determination to win at all costs is, to say the least, very unsporting, where kids are constantly fed hatred for the opposition; where injuring a kid from an opposing team becomes an act of bravery; where respect for the rules and for the referees does not exist.

The dominance of parents, even those not so "ugly", in junior administration is another hindrance to the emergence of senior players. Kids are generally very spoiled; they are given "star treatment" at such an early age that they do not learn the hard facts necessary for a meaningful soccer career, like discipline, the inevitability of having to wait for your chance, to sit on the bench. Young boys of 16-18 expect to walk into the first team as a sacred right; they scorn the U/18 and reserve teams and feel finished if they don't get the nod before they are 20.

The emergence of some young players in senior teams is nowadays taken as a rule, rather than the exception. Players like Blair, Davidson, Selmidis, Valentine, Incantalupo, Zinni, Latif, Patikas and others are, or were, exceptionally mature for their

Continued page 2

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Croatia unbeaten in Indonesia

Sydney Croatia has blitzed Indonesia the way it blitzed Canada on its unbeaten tour a few years ago.

This time, Croatia also returned unbeaten and ready to catch up on its rivals in the NSW State League.

Croatia played three games in Indonesia and won all of them.

The scores were: 3-1 v Central Java, 2-0 v a national XI and 4-0 v west Java club Persib.

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2 million kids, but now many players

From page one

age when they broke into senior soccer, and should not be taken as examples.

It is a known fact that the average soccer player reaches his maturity in the early twenties and his best around 25-27, with goalkeepers taking even longer. What is this frenzy to have teenagers doing a man's job?

Despite the "ugly parents" and the other shortcomings of our junior system, the sheer number of participants produces a very large crop of good young players in their late teens; and that is when we lose most of the fruits of the juniors' programme.

With a fragile background, with expectations much too high, with a marked indifference from Federations and clubs, with pressures of study and of newly-discovered social outlets and temptations, the boys who have emerged from the junior teams are easily lost to the game, both as players and spectators.

Clubs and federations should create a buffer zone between juniors and seniors; well-run competitions under the care of the best coaches to give boys the opportunity to mature physically and mentally; to refine their often mediocre soccer skills; to slow down the general pace, to take in the pressures of FISC studies and of social life; to enjoy the game after the tremendous pressures of their junior years and before the demanding requirements of senior soccer.

In the early stages of junior soccer there should be very little emphasis on competitiveness, and by that I don't mean the absence of competitive tournaments as is already the case, but a marked slowing down on the pressures applied by parents and clubs. In fact, parents should be the ones to receive the initial "training" . . . on how to behave; proper lectures by professional educators, to try to stop the "ugly parent" syndrome. The initial part of the junior program should be all fun, friendship between children and parents alike; "indoctrination" in sportsmanship, in

love for the game, in the traditions of the sport and the club. Children and parents should be made to feel proud and fortunate to be in such a great sport and in such a good club. Attendance of the first team's games should be encouraged, senior stars should become their heroes and loyalty to the club a way of life.

In the middle stages of the junior programme there should be a definite emphasis on proper coaching of skills and physical training, complemented by teaching of the rules of the game and elementary knowledge about diet. Apart from many kids not knowing sufficiently the rules of the game, there are many who have no idea about how to eat before a game. I have often seen kids stuffing themselves with hamburgers and hot dogs just before going on to the field, while they are actually in their soccer strips.

Training sessions should be made interesting, apart from effective, and there should be a good sprinkling of films and lecture sessions. End-of-season trips, even if only to a country centre, should be a must to strengthen team spirit and friendship in a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere.

In the later stages of the junior programme there should be more and better of the same, with increasing emphasis on competitiveness, on specialised training sessions, on leadership and responsibilities. Whole teams and their coaches, with as many parents as possible, should sit together at senior games, to learn, to discuss, to have the feeling of what the whole club and senior soccer are all about.

The championship season should finish with a bang, like a top four competition, instead of fizzling away. The off-season should see some continuation of club activity, even if only socials, built around soccer film sessions.

Some weddings should also start to take place so that boys who have no chance of making it will not continue to delude themselves. And then we should remedy the vacuum that exists between junior soccer and "first-team" soccer. The U/18 competition should be a very serious affair rather than the shambles it

has been for the past few years in Victoria, with ample provisions being made for study and social requirements. The boys should be allowed to grow as people and as soccer players, at their own individual pace, without the extreme pressures of having to make it before they are 20.

One additional shortcoming of the junior programme is the ease with which boys can change clubs because of their amateur status. This unsettles teams no end and gives the boys the opportunity to look for what they may think are greener pastures as soon as the going is no longer to their complete liking. You have boys moving from one club to another and never really settling in anywhere. The game could do without these drifters who cause all sorts of discipline problems and who prompt clubs to enter teams at the beginning of the season only to be forced to pull them out later because their "stars" have left.

The federations should stop transfers after the first game of the championship season. But in the meantime clubs should put on contract any youngster playing in the U/18 and reserve teams, but be reasonable when they ask to transfer.

There are a lot of fears and misconceptions about signing contracts with a club. But really contracts are also in the best interest of the boys.

They make them settle in for at least a couple of years, they make them part of the club and recipients of expensive coaching.

Bringing up young players is a very expensive business because for every one coming through the system there are thousands who have failed. Good is not played by themselves, like in tennis, so they need a whole team to play with and another one to play against. The often used phrase: "I did not cost the club anything, I came through the juniors," is the result of one of the greatest misconceptions in soccer. True, most of the funds and work were put in by parents, but by hundreds of parents, not just by the parent of the boy who acquires a "dollar" value at the end of his junior career.

There is no doubt that clubs would be prepared to put more time and effort into the juniors programme if they could expect to derive certain benefits from it. But with the mentality of most young players, and their parents, and the complexity of the Federations, it becomes a lot cheaper to poach young players from other clubs or to import accomplished players from overseas, rather than spending years to produce some on whom you cannot rely.

Eagerness for statistics has made the officials forget that the major aim of the junior programme is to produce players of the future. Until now the effort of thousands and the money gone into the juniors from various sources has been mostly wasted when the end result is assessed. In the past 10 years something like 2 million kids have gone through the junior programme with only a fraction of a percentage point making it to senior ranks.

It is time to reassess the whole junior program, to go for quality rather than quantity, to stop taking advantage of the "ugly" and not so ugly parents and put into the programme more qualified coaches (and less trophies), more complete training techniques, more officials who know what they are doing.

But one cannot talk about soccer juniors in Australia without paying tribute to the many hard working officials who keep the game going on a week-to-week basis; people who started with the juniors when their own kids started, but have remained long after their kids left; have in fact become foster parents to thousands of other kids. These officials represent all that is good and noble in the game and in the community and definitely deserve appreciation and recognition but, most importantly, new sound directions so that their work is not wasted; a better structure to give them new aims, new targets for which to strive.

Next week: The Federations, coaches, referees and Press.



Mike Johnson

Johnson joins Mormon church, quits soccer

Coach and "Soccer Action" columnist Mike Johnson last week quit the game he loves after joining the Mormon church.

Johnson, who coached NSW State League club Fairy Meadow, is one of the most colorful characters in Australian football.

He has abandoned soccer in order to spend more time with his two children.

Bill de Graaf, the former New Zealand international who played for Wollongong and Ringwood-Wilhelmina, has been appointed caretaker coach of Fairy Meadow.

Johnson stunned club officials and players when he made the shock announcement of his retirement — hardly six months after moving to Fairy Meadow from Bankstown.

"Joining the Mormon church has made me realise that my main responsibility lies with my two children," Johnson explained.

"Training and playing commitments do not leave much time for a coach to spend with his children."

Johnson, who is separated from his wife, said this decision was the hardest he had to make in his footballing life.

At one stage he almost changed his mind, he said. "But I became aware it was more important to look after my children than to improve a soccer player's career," Johnson said.

Johnson was one of the heroes behind South Coast United's 40 grand final win over APIA in the 1964 NSW premiership.

Johnson also will terminate his journalistic practice as a columnist for "Soccer Action" and a Sydney local newspaper.

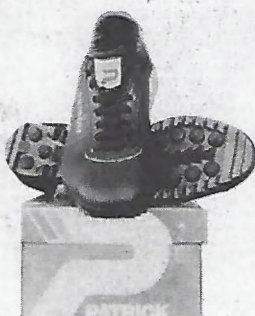
— PHILIP MICALLEF



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SOCCER CITY

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ALWAYS FIRST WITH THE BEST



The Rale Rasic Coaching Camps, which started in Melbourne 18 years ago, are back "home". They will be run in conjunction with South Melbourne Hellas and "Soccer Action" at Middle Park during the May school holidays.

The emphasis will be on helping to develop pure skill, as well as providing specialised instruction according to need.

"Skill, skill, skill and more skill — that's the home of this course," says Rale Rasic, the Hellas supreme who will pass on his vast soccer knowledge to the boys attending the camps.

"Skill is what has been missing in Australian soccer. Now we see it emerging in our national youth team, which plays an extremely skilful brand of soccer, so as you can

Skill, skill, skill is slogan of Rasic camps

see, it's only a matter of encouraging players in the right way.

"And that's what we'll be doing in the camps."

"Instruction will be extremely personalised, so that every boy gets maximum value. There will be group coaching, as well as individual coaching, and in all areas, we offer nothing but the best."

The coaching camps will be run daily from 10 am to 3 pm from May 9 to 13, and again from May 16 to 20.

Jim Armstrong, the all-time top scorer of the Victorian State League, and now coach of Hellas' State League side, will assist Rasic with the coaching during the camps.

We will talk in future articles about other coaches involved.

"Soccer Action" will give recognition to the boys who do best on the courses.

They will be selected by the coaches and by a "Soccer Action" representative from among all those who take part.

More details in later editions.

Lions dump de Geer but gain McDonagh

Former Norway Player of the Year, Boudewijn de Geer has been sent home by Brisbane Lions after playing only three and a half games with the club.

de Geer, 26, a winger who played with a number of Dutch First Division sides including De Graafschap, had been dogged by injuries since he arrived early in February.

But Lions coach Simon Kistemaker pulled no punches when he said de Geer had been sent home because his attitude and application were not what was expected of a leading overseas signing.

"I knew of him as a good player in Holland but not as a person. I obviously made a mistake and I am sorry for Lions," Kistemaker said.

de Geer was signed by Kistemaker on Lions' request that he bring a talented striker with him when he came to Australia. But the Dutch winger never got going.

First he injured an achilles tendon during training and was forced to miss many of Lions' pre-season games and did not make his debut until the NSL Cup first round match against Brisbane City at Perry Park.

de Geer was obviously unfit and wilted in the hot Queensland sun and had to be substituted in the second half. But even in the short time he was on the park he scarcely showed any touches which suggested he would be an asset to the team.

The Dutchman was then included in the Lions team for a

semi-final of the local pre-season tournament. A game played at night, but once again he failed to impress. He was dropped from the final.

de Geer played two NSL games, his last the second-round match against Canberra when he broke a bone in his foot. He had only just returned to training from that injury when Lions made the decision to send him home.

de Geer had received an unexpected telephone call from his wife in Spain and was considering returning to Europe himself. But after a heated meeting with Kistemaker last week — in which de Geer is alleged to have made some wild accusations — the Lions coach recommended to the board the player be sent home.

But in the same week that de Geer left, new Scottish signing Jim McDonagh arrived and is set to make an NSL debut against St George this weekend after playing in the Lions Premier League team last weekend.

Unlike de Geer, McDonagh has arrived in top condition, having played his last game two weeks ago. And McDonagh appears to be in fine form.

He had scored eight goals for the Airdrie firsts and 20 for the reserve team this season prior to his departure, and he has looked particularly sharp in training.

McDonagh has been played as an attacking midfielder, just in behind the Airdrie forwards and it is likely Kistemaker will use him in a similar role, playing off big Barry Keir.

their young Socceros Russell Stewart and Danny Wright and McDonagh could be called on to anchor the midfield — a job Stewart is doing brilliantly at the moment.

Lions are looking to strengthen their squad so as not to feel the loss of the youngsters too greatly and they have been negotiating with a prominent Sydney club for a promising midfielder who is currently a fringe player.

— RICKY ROSSO Boudewijn de Geer



SOCCER ACTION is published every Wednesday by Newspaper Pty. Ltd., incorporated in NSW, a Division of Age Publications, 280 Spencer Street, Melbourne 3000. P.O. Box 628E, Melbourne 3001. Distributed in Victoria and Broken Hill by Magdalen Pty. Ltd., 280 Spencer St., Melbourne 3000; in NSW by Allan Rodney Wright (Circulation) Pty. Ltd., 221 Liverpool St., Darlinghurst 2010; in S.A. by B. G. & K. L. Fuller, 105 Main St., Beverley 5008; in Tasmania by The Mercury, 93 Macquarie St., Hobart 7000; and in Queensland by Mirror Newspapers Ltd., 387 Brunswick St., Brisbane 4008.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Allan Taylor, Market Media Services, 79 McLaren St, Adelaide, 5000. Phone: 223 6829 or 223 6344.

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Andrew Berry
Address all correspondence to Soccer Action, 250 Spencer St, Melbourne 3000.

Printed by Waverley Offset Publishing Group, 580 5111

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Greek number down, Italians on increase

The Greeks are coming — that's the catch-cri often heard in Australian soccer. It is based on the number of prominent Greek-born or Greek-raised players in the NSL teams.

Their pre-eminence cannot be doubted: Patikas, Raskopoulos, Katochos and Christopoulos are national team players often hogging the limelight.

And yet — surprisingly, perhaps — the number of "Greek" players in the NSL is sharply down on 1977.

In that season 28 of them appeared in the various NSL clubs; so far this year, only 16.

True, the season isn't over yet and the number 16 is likely to increase — but only fractionally and certainly won't reach 28.

These were the 28 in 1977: Moulis, Bozikes, Glykoulas, Kokkinos, Rakovalis, Seimidis, Adamakis, Kondarios, Kiriakis, Nicolaidis, Koulianos, Kyrtikos, Pantelis, Vagianos, Zervas, Alexiou, Bozikes, Daparis, Hatzimanolis, Katifaditis, Tsigras, Xanthopoulos, Drossos, Ikonomou, Kardambis, Paraskevas, Raskopoulos and Thannmidis.

Of these only four — Seimidis, Kondarios, Xanthopoulos and Raskopoulos — have played so far in this year's NSL.

The other 13 are Dakos, Katochos, Patikas, Ziras, Svinos, Koussas, Christopoulos, Moutopoulos, Yankos, Kyriakoulas, Manou and Atsialas.

This has been the "Greek content" of the four Greek-based NSL teams:

	1977	1983
Olympic	6	1
St. Melbourne	7	1
Heidelberg	5	2
West Adelaide	5	1

Equally surprising — because one hears a lot less about them — the NSL's "Italian" quota has increased sharply since 1977.

Then there were only nine players with Italian ancestry: Di Bartolo, Marocchi, Melita, Perini, Russo, Pezzano, Mariani, Vieri and Besir.

This year already 19 have played in NSL

WE'RE GOING TO BEAT ENGLAND!

"We have the right type of players in Australia to do well against England, even though man for man the English may be superior. England is one of the greatest footballing nations in the world. They are so strong they can select a team of international quality out of their second division."

"Look at some of the English players selected for the forthcoming Hungary game — Peter Shilton, Phil Neal, Terry Butcher, Sammy Lee, Luther Blissett and Bryan Robson. But that brings the nicest thing in the project. That is the challenge."

They're the words of Frank Arok, the St George Budapest coach who will be in charge of the Soccerroos for their three international games against England in Sydney on June 12, in Brisbane on June 15 and in Melbourne on June 19.

Young Soccerroos and Heidelberg in Hobart

Hobart is to have a soccer extravaganza at last!

The Tasmanian Soccer Association's public relations officer, Roy Stoneman, has announced that Australia's Young Soccerroos will play NSL side Heidelberg-Alexander in Hobart on the evening of Wednesday, May 4.

The game, under lights at Grove Road, should be a sell-out as Australia's best youth players clash with a Heidelberg team containing players pushing for a place in Australia's senior national team.

Even non-soccer folk should be at the game in numbers to see young players such as Tom McCulloch, David Lowe, Fabio Incantupo, Jim Patikas, and Tasmania's own Luciano Fabrizio, in action before the squad leaves for the World Youth Championships in Mexico in June.

It should be a battle royal as Heidelberg, boasting players of the calibre of Yankos, Spanos, Campbell and Valentine, and under the baton of coach Ken Morton, who established his reputation in Tasmania with Rapid-West Point, go all out to prove that they are worth their position in the top four of the NSL.

The Young Soccerroos will be in Hobart from May 2 to 5 and are certain to win many friends as they take part in coaching clinics and other promotional activities during their stay.

The visit is the first made to Tasmania by an Australian representative soccer team and will be warmly welcomed by all soccer supporters.

Congratulations must go to the TSA, the ASF, and to Heidelberg-Alexander for providing Tasmanians with what should prove to be an outstanding sports event.

— WALTER PLESS

KAT'S CORNER with PETER KATHOLOS

In the minds of all the players in the running for the final squad, everything revolves around that big week.

The NSW v. Queensland interstate match in Brisbane on May 8 is part of our preparation. NSW coach John Wattiss is working in with Arok, and I believe Arok will go to Brisbane to watch the match.

The message is clear it's vital for every player to perform well in Brisbane if he has

aspirations about playing against England.

We've had three or four training sessions under Wattiss and we had the first of a series of national team training camps under Arok last week.

The NSW side to meet Queensland could look something like this: Steve Watson (Croatia) — Mike O'Shea (St George), Mark Pullen (APIA), David Ratcliffe (St George), Graham Jennings (Olympic) — Peter Katholos (Olympic), Peter Stone (St George), Peter Raskopoulos (Olympic) — Marshall Soper (Olympic), John Kosmina (Sydney City), David Mitchell (Sydney City).



Look familiar? It's Alun Evans, the former South Melbourne Hellas and Liverpool star, in the colors of his new club, Morwell Falcons.

Let's leave Croatia, Juve out of ethnic witch-hunt

Defence for soccer's "ethnic" clubs, club names and supporters last week came from an unexpected but welcome source — former Australian captain Johnny Warren.

Writing in a Sydney daily, Warren slammed the ASF policy which forcibly has tried to anglicise our clubs, ridiculed the artificial club names and openly admitted that low-level soccer depends heavily on the support of migrants.

Of course, we have said all this before, perhaps even louder — but when our former skipper joins in, the ASF may listen.

All but the most irritatingly stubborn now will have to concede that the experiment with the game's "de-ethnicisation" has failed miserably.

Hardly anybody refers to the teams as Rams, Hawks, Wolves, Leopards and other zoological names which sound like the sub-titles from a David Attenborough production.

Even the NSL office seems



Johnny Warren

THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN

to have widely abandoned this nonsense. Its weekly bulletin ignores the gimmick-names and refers to the clubs as Preston, West Adelaide, Wollongong, Marconi and others.

Two of the most visible sufferers of this expensive fiasco have been Sydney City and Leichhardt.

Sydney City, genuinely believing the Goebbelsian propaganda of the day, voluntarily shed "Hakoah" for the new tag . . . and appears to have lost a lot of support through antagonising its Jewish fans.

Leichhardt's case is even sorer. Despite the vehement protests of the club, it was forced by the ASF to change from APIA (an acronym for Italian-Australian Sports Association: is that sinful?) to the "Australian name of Leichhardt, a predominantly Italian suburb named after a German explorer."

Now have a look at Leichhardt's crowds . . . will anybody compensate the club for its staggering losses?

The tragedy of this whole mess is that it's difficult to reverse the experiment.

Thousands of migrant fans have given the game away —

at least on a regular weekly basis — and nobody knows how to lure them back.

I doubt whether it would make much difference if the clubs changed their names back to Hakoah, APIA, Budapest and others . . . it may be too late for that.

However, the ASF should keep in mind the lessons of all this for future reference.

Once again, the old parlor game is about to start — changing the structure of the NSL. Something that was seen and hailed as the saviour of soccer in 1977 now is abandoned for yet another experiment.

If, as seems certain, the NSL will be sub-divided, new clubs will have to be recruited. And the majority of these are likely to be migrant-supported outfits such as Juventus, Ajax, Croatia, Melita, etc.

I agree with Warren's basic premise: they should be allowed to compete under whatever name they fancy. So should those already in the NSL.

This in itself won't cure all the ills of our soccer — but at least we will have more honest approach to an old problem.

And so the sad saga of Sydney City, nee Hakoah, goes on, almost certainly to a tragic ending.

Ever since last December's dramatic manifesto indicating their withdrawal from the NSL — later reversed — Sydney has been awash with rumors and speculation about this great club's future.

Their problem is a fundamentally simple one: the rich Hakoah Club, with over 7,000 members, is not inclined to keep spending large sums on a team which cannot attract public support.

Hakoah COULD afford the \$300,000 or even more annually; they COULD keep creating super-teams. But for whom?

Not even 10 percent of the club's membership can be described as regular soccer supporters; for the others the luxurious Bondi Beach club is a place for bridge, canasta, chess, stage shows, matzo soup or apple strudel not to mention the rows of poker machines.

The change of names didn't work, either. Sydney City has never been regarded as Sydney's team. Anyway, the population of this blase city wouldn't support a soccer club it was called Anzac, Oz or Southern Cross; they don't let patriotism interfere with their footballing preferences.

The real tragedy of Hakoah's demise is — as was Prague's a few years ago — that "minor" minority groups just can't sustain major soccer clubs.

With hardly any new intake of migrants, clubs based on Hungarian, Jewish, Czech, Dutch, German, etc. support will all wither away.

This leaves the Greeks, the Italians and, to a lesser degree, the Maltese and various groups from Yugoslavia.

The NSL could easily become a purely Mediterranean League in a few years; maybe Club Med could be induced to act as sponsors.

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Croatia returns, Allan, Eaton, Theodorakopoulos notch 3

The State League will present two fierce derbies this week with Avala - Croatia at Knight Park the pick of the round. With so much at stake and on paper so even, the two sides are bound to provide good value for money.

Croatia, back from its Indonesian tour and Avala with some formidable names from the NSL, should provide the spade-work for a bonanza of soccer. They will also provide another look at the two major contenders for the top four in action.

Should Croatia win, it will spell doom for Avala, the side which has already lost seven points in as many matches. A win by Avala would make things more interesting at the top but I doubt if Croatia is going to sit still and let it happen.

At Cromer Park, Manly Warringah will welcome Yugal.

On paper Manly has a slight edge in playing at home, but Yugal has a point to prove. Both sides are on 50% of points available and will be looking for an improved record.

In other matches: Blacktown will play Polonia at the Gabbie on Saturday, while the following matches are set for Sunday: Inter Monaro - Canterbury, Kuringal - Bankstown, Auburn - Sutherland.

Melita will take a rest, due to the uneven number of teams in the League.

Last week's round of the N.S.W. State League was reduced to five games after the Polonia - Manly fixture was called off last Saturday. Bankstown had a bye due to the withdrawal of Riverwood



NSW State League with ALEX VESIC

and remaining five matches were split over the period of three days.

Canterbury surprised Kuringal at Arlington Oval to win by an odd goal. Theodorakopoulos and Eaton helped themselves to three goals each in a match won by Canterbury 4-3.

On Sunday, Don Allan was the toast of the Melita crowd at Mona Park, collecting the club's first hat-trick of the season, and in fact his first goals for 1983. For Auburn it was yet another defeat and yet another disappointment. After seven rounds Auburn (only five matches), has no points and is firmly entrenched at the foot of the league ladder.

Inter Monaro came to Sydney looking for more points at the expense of Yugal, but even Roberto Vieri's appearance in the second half did little to enhance its chances. Yugal won by a single goal, scored from a free kick and deflected off the woodwork.

Cries of "We wuz robbed" came from Seymour Shaw Park after Avala defeated Sutherland in a lopsided match. In fact it was Sutherland that did all the attacking, hitting the woodwork three times and creating no less than a dozen opportunities in front of goal only to go down to some soft goals given away by the home team's defence.

Sutherland players had every reason to feel cheated but it was of their own doing and I am sure that come Tuesday it will be some torrid time for a few players when John Watkiss delivers his sermon.

After a fine start, Sutherland is now on seven points from six games and looks to be from the confident outfit which registered three con-

fortable wins in the first three matches the side played this season.

The league table, following round seven has a strange look, with Melita on top with seven matches played, and Croatia in seventh spot with three matches played and still the only undefeated side. Croatia's match with Blacktown is listed for Anzac day at King Tomislav.

Auburn 0 Melita 4

Scorers: Allan 17', 87', 88', Duarte 49'.
AUBURN: Bowman, Kelly (Bohancic 42'), Pyromellis, Plastis (sent off 53'), Kiliha, Lunt, Dale, Gulgley, Kinsey, Townsend, Cress.
MELITA: Eagles: A. McPherson, R. McPherson, Cress, Daley, McGinn, McAusland, Duarte (Martinez 85'), Jamieson, Allan, McKie, Farrugia.

Well, well, it eventually happened Don Allan scores, for the first time this season, and Melita fires on all cylinders. It was a lopsided affair with Melita always in the box seat with Don Allan helping himself to a hat-trick of goals.

Auburn did help proceedings, having its defender Slav Planinic sent off after a skirmish between McKie and the unfortunate Planinic. The Auburn defender retaliated and was sent off in the 53rd minute with the score at 2-0.

Melita came surging forward in waves, looking for plenty of action and goals during the last half hour of play but all looked in vain as Duarte, Don Allan and McKie missed some solid opportunities in front of goal. David Bowman the Auburn keeper did not exactly help Melita's plans by making some great saves to keep the visitors at bay.



Clive Eaton

Then came the last five minutes and Hector Martinez on for Dennis Duarte.

The skillful Argentinian had little to do with the action and the goals in the ensuing minutes but Melita Eagles scored two more to make it 4-0. Don Allan scored from McKie's cross in the 57th, then repeated the dose from a cross by Alex Jamieson to make it 4-0 only a minute later.

Earlier on, Don Allan was at hand to head home after 17 minutes of the first half following a cross by Alex Jamieson, then Duarte scored soon after resumption. It was Allan who crossed and Jamieson hit the crossbar, with Duarte picking up the rebound to head home.

This win has put Melita on top of the State League ladder after seven rounds, one point away from Blacktown and four points away from Sutherland and Avala. However, Sutherland and Blacktown have a game in hand while Croatia had no less than four games in hand.

For Croatia, Sutherland and Polonia there was some bad news during the week. Their games against Riverwood have been "scratched" and the points earned, taken away. For Melita it was a bonus firstly since they did not play Riverwood, and secondly to run away from Sutherland, one of the contenders for the top four, as well as Croatia, so far the only undefeated side in the League.

Sutherland 1 Avala 2

Scorers: Meadows (St. Youseff, Karanfilovski (A).
SUTHERLAND: Haynes, Cashman, Watkins, Dalorno, Scharfegger (Torrey 21'), Meadows, Knowles, Wobber, Clinch, Harrington, Grooms (C. Rogers 78').
AVALA: Ahrens, Brown, Milne, Barton, Patterson, Fernandez, Kodor (Colluso 57'), Muniz (31'), Fontana, Youseff, Burrows, Karanfilovski.

Sutherland has slumped to its second defeat in as many weeks, to Avala at Seymour Shaw Park. Not that the home side played all that badly. In fact it was Sutherland who did most of the attacking.

Sutherland had every reason to feel robbed, and Avala has every reason to be happy to have collected both points.

It was after seven minutes that Avala got its first goal. A long through ball appeared to be in the safe keeping of Vic Dalorno, but the tall Sutherland centreback decided to leave it for the advancing Mal Haynes. However, neither Sutherland player realised the presence of Youseff, who stuck his foot past Dalorno to toe the ball into the net past bewildered Haynes.

At the other end of the park, however, the situation was reversed at one stage, without the same ending. This time Mark Barton and Peter Ahrens ran into difficulties. In attempting to return to Ahrens, Barton hit it a trifle too hard and to the side of his keeper. Ahrens managed to put his fingers to the ball but only to push it straight at the feet of Nigel Grooms, who steadied and sent his shot over Ahrens and against the crossbar!

That could also aptly describe Sutherland's misfortunes on the day.

Shane Clinch hit the crossbar from a cross by Jimmy Webber, then it was Vic Dalorno's turn to miss from some nine metres, side-footing one over the crossbar.

Nigel Grooms had an ideal opportunity during the first period but after being put into the clear to face Ahrens his shot hit the side netting. Shane Clinch managed to beat Ahrens but alas, yet another shot went so close yet hit the crossbar and bounced back to safety.

Ahrens was beaten again by Grooms but the ball grazed the far post and away to safety. While all this was happening Avala was 2-0 up.

Branko Karanfilovski scored his first of the season and Avala's second goal in the dying seconds of the first half after collecting a cross, having time to trap the ball, turn and hit the net from some four metres away, completely unopposed.

Avala collected its second two pointer of the season, but failed to show its true wares despite parading two more imports from the NSL. Glen Fontana from Wollongong and Dennis Colluso from Marconi appeared from Avala, joining Burrows and Muniz, setting earlier on.

With Housseini, another import in this side, Avala should be challenging for the top four but its play so far this season hasn't impressed and a lot of work must be done before the team can seriously contend with the best in the State League.

Sutherland on the other hand had comfortable wins in the lower grades, winning 7-1 and 8-0 respectively, but never looked as good during its first grade game.

Canterbury 4 Kuringal 3

Scorers: Theodorakopoulos 3, Vassiliou (C), Eaton 3 (K).
CANTERBURY: Eizen, Antonopoulos, Hadzic, Lewis, Binca, Andronou, Basterfield, Papadopoulos (Muniz 48'), Theodorakopoulos, Anagnostopoulos, Vassiliou.
KURINGAL: Antean, Kevrn, Monrood, Jann, Robertson, Berry, Bartram 60', Brookbank (Gavin), Hunter, Eaton, Reagan.

After some poor performances in recent weeks, Canterbury came back to defeat Kuringal in the mud at Arlington Oval. Four goals in the first half and three during the second period were enough to warm up a fairly small but happy home crowd, with Clive Eaton helping himself to a hat-trick of goals as did Theodorakopoulos of Canterbury.

Still without Craig Hall, who resumed training only last week, Grahame Arnold (sold to Croatia) and now Chris Thaminides, Canterbury looked doomed against the new boys of the State League, Kuringal.

The fact that Kuringal had Clive Eaton, Tom Gavin, Mike Berry and Stuart Reagan in its line-up as well as recently-arrived English import Brockbank, strengthened its favoritism.

Clive Eaton, with his low centre of gravity and still with enormous spring in his feet, managed to open and close the scoring at Arlington Oval, but to no avail. It was Theodorakopoulos all the way, as Theodorakopoulos slammed in an equaliser, then sent the Berries into the lead before Vassiliou made it 3-1 on the stroke of half time.

Eaton pulled one back soon after resumption but it was Theodorakopoulos who made sure of the two-pointer by scoring his third goal. With minutes remaining, Eaton managed to put his boot to the ball which got stuck in the mud lower down the area to close the goal-scoring for the day. It was almost comical, as boots went everywhere in an attempt to connect with the slippery and "elusive" ball, with Clive Eaton making sure not only to connect but place his shot past El Zein.

John Xipolitas, the coach of Canterbury, was elated with his team's performance. "Without four of my star players we have won the points. That is an effort indeed and an incentive for all of us at the club to work harder," said the likeable coach.

Chris Thaminides, missing from training since the match against Bankstown, is having trouble coming to terms with the club, while Craig Hall has resumed training and is expected to return to soccer in three to four weeks.

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NEW STATE LEAGUE				
Polonia - Manly	0-0	Yugal - Inter Monaro	1-0, MI-1	
Kuringal - 4-3, Theodorakopoulos 3, Vassiliou (C), Eaton (K)				
Croatia-Blacktown (To be played)				
Sutherland - Avala - 1-2, Meadows (B), Karanfilovski, Youseff (A)				
Melita Eagles - Auburn - 4-0, Blacktown bye				
W O L D F A P				
Melita Eagles	5	11	162	11
Sutherland	1	11	164	8
Canterbury	3	12	84	7
Avala	2	3	810	7
Yugal	2	2	114	6
Croatia	2	2	87	6
Kuringal	2	3	88	6
Blacktown	2	2	818	5
Canterbury	2	1	812	5
Bankstown	1	2	84	4
Polonia	0	3	212	2
Auburn	0	0	214	0
FOOTBAY SALISBURY				
STATE LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION: BANKSTOWN VS POLONIA GRANGE STADIUM				
STATE LEAGUE 2ND DIVISION: WARRAGONG VS POLONIA GRANGE STADIUM				
FITNESS CANOE, Antares - vs Fairy Meadows Antares rowers, rowing Warragong vs North Bankstown JOHNSON, David, Salmons vs Glaxindale				
STATE LEAGUE 3RD DIVISION, Oatman Park FIVE VS BATHURST FIVE BRISBANE VILLAGE, David Smith vs Ian Smith				
INTER U18R 1ST DIVISION: Maroubra United vs Waverley Maroubra CRINAL SEA PARK, Sydney vs Mt Fairfield SEA, STONEY LANE, SYDNEY				
INTER U18R 3RD DIVISION: Blacktown Waves vs Green Valley U18 PEARKS PARK, SYDNEY				
INTER U18R 4TH DIVISION: Randwick vs South Sydney RSL, TURFMOORE PARK, SYDNEY				
INTER U18R 4TH DIVISION: WARRAGONG VS RSL vs LEARNED U18R PARK STREET, WARRAGONG				

Col Bennett out again

Lions defender Col Bennett has broken down again in his desperate bid to get back into the club's NSL side.

Bennett, fighting off the effects of a serious back injury, is now trying to overcome a knee problem.

The former Soccerero played his first game this season three weeks ago when he appeared in the Lions Premier League side against Mount Gravest.

Bennett showed all his old determination and won a lot of ball in the air but he still appears to have a problem in using his right foot.

Bennett complained of pain in the leg when kicking during training, leading up to the game but believed it was only a psychological thing and once in a match situation he would be back to normal.

But the was not so and throughout the match he kicked almost exclusively with his left foot. His contribution though was enough to guarantee him a regular place at that level but in training the following week he injured his knee and found by the weekend it had frozen stiff.

— RICKY ROSSO



Bobby Dobbing - at loggerheads with Frankston Pines

Dobbing 1 times over \$600

Bobby Dobbing and Frankston Pines are headed for confrontation. The arena will be the V&F Appeals Board. Irrespective of the board's judgement, the whole affair will be a sad end to what once was a great relationship between the former Soccerero squad defender and the progressive Pines.

Dobbing ended a highly successful four-year stint at Pines this year when he joined Tommy Randles on the coaching staff at Metro First Division rival Melbourne.

Pines reportedly are asking for a \$600 transfer fee for Dobbing, to which he strongly objects.

"It's a real pity that we've come to this. I've got great memories and even greater friends from the Pines," said Dobbing. "I honestly thought, that after my service to the club, and at 33 years old, I would be let go free."

Dobbing spent five years with English First Division club Coventry City and a year with Hartlepool before coming here in 1970 and joining Melbourne Hungaria. He had played five games for Victoria and been selected in a 22-member Soccerero squad when he suffered the first of two broken legs.

Dobbing returned to the U.K. but rejoined Melbourne in 1973. A few years later he joined Chelsea, then in Metro Third Division, for 18 months before switching to Pines for \$500.

Dobbing was an integral part of the Pines outfit which won the Metro Fourth Division title, the Third Division title and came runner-up in Second Division in 1981. He took over as reserve team coach last year, guiding his young charges to the reserve league championship.

Dobbing was voted the supporters' Player of the Year in 1980, the year Pines clinched the Third Division title.

Hobart beats SA

HOBART XI 4 (Ward 28, Parker 49, 52, Sherman 62) SOUTH AUSTRALIA AMATEUR XI 1 (McInlarin 8)

Att: 600. Ref: N. Johnson
HOBART XI: P. Kavanagh (Harrison 72), Wilson, Holgate, Ryan, Hay - Forster (Nichols 88), Charlton, S. Kavanagh - Shorman (Oakley 72), Ward (A. Leary 88), Parker.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Anderson - Roush (Parron 80), Berwick-Smith (Dickson 88), Donovan (Talarico 72), - Nicholas (Brown 88), McInlarin, Levey, Byrne - White, Reeves.

NORTHERN TASMANIA XI 0, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AMATEUR XI 1

State-Wide Cup: South Hobart 2 beat Phoenix 1, University 4 beat Hobart City 3 on penalties after 0-0 at the end of extra-time.



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Lismore litmus for regionalisation

With Sydney City and Brisbane City playing in Lismore on Saturday the question is — what effect is it going to have not only on Lismore but the rest of Australia?

It's a fair bet that the result of the exercise will have a far-reaching effect and that the whole of Australia will be watching what happens.

One of the reasons is that the NSL is continually talking about regionalisation and it

seems that 1984 will be the year it all happens. There has been only one competition fixture, and a Cup game, taken away from the capital cities and both times it has seen Sydney City play K.B. in Gosford. It may be that the League will now split into groups similar to the system used in the United States and have a play-off at the end of the season to determine the national champion.

If the NSL does this, there is

By BYSTANDER

every chance that invitations will be given to new centres to enter the League as it appears that our capital centres are saturated. There is little point in having more teams from Sydney or Melbourne if it means that crowds are going to be split up even more.

For example, another Greek-backed club in Melbourne would take support from either Hellas or Heidelberg and that doesn't make much sense as they are all

struggling for funds.

A good crowd in Lismore for this game must make the NSL give a lot more thought to having a certain number of games in the country. It may not mean that a National League club could be based there but maybe a club like Sydney City could alternate its home matches between several major country centres.

Alternatively NSL could direct any of the clubs to take selected games to country centres that it thinks will benefit from it in promotion of the game.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

	HOME					AWAY					Gls	Pts
	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. (3) Brisbane City	3	0	1	10	6	1	0	2	1	12	7	13
2. (2) Preston-Makedonia	2	1	0	4	2	1	2	1	6	5	10	12
3. (4) Heidelberg-Alexander	3	1	0	8	1	0	2	1	1	4	7	12
4. (8) Newcastle KB United	2	2	0	5	2	1	0	2	5	4	10	11
5. (7) Sydney Olympic	1	1	1	5	2	2	1	1	5	5	10	11
6. (10) St. George Budapest	3	1	0	6	2	0	1	2	0	2	6	11
7. (14) Sydney City Hakoah	1	2	0	3	1	2	0	2	6	8	9	11
8. (2) West Adelaide Hellas	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	4	5	11
9. (5) Canberra Arrows	2	1	0	10	2	0	1	3	4	7	14	8
10. (12) South Melbourne Hellas	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	2	5	7	9	8
11. (12) APIA-Leichhardt	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	2	1	4	4	8
12. (9) Adelaide City Juventus	2	1	1	6	5	0	1	2	1	5	7	10
13. (11) Wollongong	0	3	1	5	6	0	1	1	4	4	9	10
14. (15) Marconi-Fairfield	1	1	1	3	5	1	0	3	4	5	7	7
15. (13) Brisbane Lions	2	0	1	7	2	0	1	3	2	11	9	12
16. (16) Footscray J.U.S.T.	1	0	3	3	12	0	1	2	1	6	4	17

*Denotes match in hand.

Hermiston's men safe, last chance for Hellas

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Sydney City v Brisbane City in Lismore on Saturday is the top match of the next NSL round, but there's also a lot at stake in the Marconi-Heidelberg and South Melbourne Hellas-Newcastle clashes.

Hellas has lost three in a row — to St George, Wollongong and Brisbane City — making it absolutely imperative that it wins this time against Newcastle.

A victory would give Hellas 11 points and leave it within striking distance of the leaders. A loss would effectively kill off any remaining hopes of a Hellas title.

Newcastle will be a tough out to crack because its record this year is better than Hellas's, and Joe Senkalski will be back in midfield after missing a week due to suspensions.

Hellas desperately needs more from its stars — especially team-work. Carl Holford will return to the team since Arthur Xanthopoulos is suspended. John Zyzendorn will take the sweeper's position.

I have a feeling Hellas could do it this time. It has been dominating its matches, at least in the first half, and so its luck is bound to change.

Sydney City struggled to beat Wollongong 3-2, and although John Kosmina notched two that day, I can't see him getting past Brisbane City's staunch defence. Jim Hermiston has the personality, the experience, the aura that rubs off on players. That's the main reason City is on top of the ladder.

Hermiston runs marathons in his leisure time, and relaxes afterwards with 200 push-ups. You've got no choice but to give a man like that 100 per cent effort. Otherwise he's liable to take your position and play himself.

Marconi turned on some sparkling soccer against lowly JUST, due mainly to Rod Brown, Tom McCulloch and Tom Sermanni, but none of them will get as much room from the Heidelberg defence, in which Charlie Yankos still is beating all comers. With Derek Lea striking form up front, Heidelberg should win again.

Sydney Olympic can't wait for its match with JUST at Pratten Park. Nothing like an avalanche of goals to lift the players' spirits and to inspire the fans to come back for more.

Of all the teams at the top, Makedonia appears to have the easiest game this week. It usually plays with a lot of power at home and its opponent, Adelaide City, hasn't exactly been setting the world on fire lately.

Zarko Odzakovic, Zoran Iloski and George McMillan should take an iron grip on the midfield and it'll be left to poor Bugsy Nyskohus and Neil Banfield to try to stem the tide.

Wollongong, the league's draw specialist, should draw again, this time in Canberra on Saturday, while West Adelaide should have little difficulty disposing of goal-shy APIA at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Weekend matches with likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY

Canberra Arrows v Wollongong (draw) at National Sports Centre, 3pm.

Record so far: Woll 2 wins, 0 draw, 2 losses, 4:3 goals.

Sydney City Hakoah v BRISBANE CITY at Oakes Oval, Lismore, 7.30pm.

Record: Syd.C. 6 wins, 2 draws, 4 losses, 18:11 goals.

SUNDAY

Marconi-Fairfield v HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER at Marconi Oval, 3pm.

Record: Marc. 4 wins, 4 draws, 4 losses, 25:20 goals.

Brisbane Lions v ST GEORGE BUDAPEST at Richmond, 3pm.

Record: St.Geo. 2 wins, 7 draws, 1 loss, 11:10 goals.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v Newcastle KB United at Middle Park, 3pm.

Record: Level at 3 wins and 4 draws each, 11:11 goals.

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS v APIA-Leichhardt at Hindmarsh Stadium, 2.30pm.

Record: APIA 4 wins, 1 draw, 3 losses, 12:10 goals.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v Footscray JUST at Pratten Park, 3pm.

Record: Syd.Ol. 4 wins, 5 draws, 1 loss, 12:6 goals.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA v Adelaide City Juventus at Connor Reserve, 3pm.

Record: Maked. 2 wins, 1 draw, 1 win, 5:2 draws



Carl Holford — back in action with South Melbourne Hellas on Sunday against Newcastle KB.

NSL team of the week

In brackets: No. of appearances in Team of the Week:

GREEDY (2)
(St George)

GRAY (1) YANKOS (4) HUNTER (1) B. NYSKOHUS (1)
(APIA) (Heidelberg) (Brisb Lions) (Adel City)

HAMILTON (2) McCULLOCH (2) SERMANNI (1)
(Brisb City) (Marconi) (Marconi)

BROWN (1) KOSMINA (2) O'CONNOR (2)
(Marconi) (Syd City) (Wollongong)



Heidelberg's injured stars, Gary Cole (left) and Jim Tansey still can afford to smile despite the serious setback their careers suffered earlier this year. Cole is recovering from an operation from an ankle operation whilst Tansey is recuperating after breaking his right arm against Adelaide City in an NSL Cup match on April 4.

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Blair, Manou swap, Bojczuk leaves, Olympic for the title

Adel. City 1 Olympic 2

Goals: Olympic — Dakos 18th, Soper (pen) 40th; Adelaide City — Mullen 44th.

Cautions: Carter, Blair (Adelaide City).

Crowd: 1800

Weather: Stormy

Referee: J. Rossis 8.

Ground: Olympic Sports Field

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally 7 — Dods 7, Benfield 8, Myskohus 8, Cole 7 (Wright) — Carter 6, Mulla 6, Blair 8 — Villani 7, Maxwell 7, Mullen 7.

OLYMPIC: MEIER 7 — Jennings 7, Dakos 8, Herbert 7, Rogers 8 — Phillips 8, Patikas 7, Katholos 7 — Patterson 7, Soper 8, Koussas 7.

Tommy Docherty's Sydney Olympic has signalled its challenge for the top of the national league.

Its 2-1 win over a determined City was the first time this year it has managed back-to-back wins.

Though it was not vintage Olympic, Docherty's men probably did just enough to take the points.

The rhythm was missing from Olympic's game, though on a treacherous surface, courtesy of persistent storms, this was hardly a surprise.

The game had no outstanding performers and as a result it failed to live up to expectations.

Olympic opened the scoring in the 18th minute when youth Soccerpro prospect Tony Dakos

pounced on a loose ball in the six yard box and slammed it past a line of defenders and goalkeeper Willie McNally.

Olympic should have had a second in the 37th minute when the brilliant Jim Patikas hammered a glorious 25 metre rocket against the right hand post.

However, Olympic had its two goal lead just three minutes later when Katholos, after breaking from the middle of City's half, was brought down by McNally. Marshall Soper took the penalty and struck his fifth goal in four games.

Olympic's lead flattered and City had every reason to feel luck had not favored it.

But Joe Mullen, another



Meno Toutsidis

youth Soccerpro hopeful, eroded Olympic's lead in the 44th minute when he slammed a great rising shot into the far corner after pouncing on a rebound from his own blocked shot.

That was the end of the scoring. The second half was largely a battle between the two midfield armies.

City mainly called the shots and with the help of Stewart Blair, the former Melbourne Hakoah and Adelaide Azurri

star, it looked the side most likely to score.

Blair, after having played just one full game for West Adelaide, transferred to Adelaide City late on Friday in exchange for City's Chris Manou.

Blair had an encouraging game and West could yet regret letting him slip from its hands.

The Blair incident was the second strange transfer move of the week.

On the previous Friday, Wally Bojczuk who had crossed to West Adelaide from Azurri with Blair, decided to return to Azurri.

Bojczuk had an unhappy stay at West and was heckled by a small contingent of West "fans" at games and at training!

Blair's presence in the midfield should soon have an

effect on City which has recruited well this season.

Apart from Blair, the club has acquired Steve Maxwell, Mullen and Phil Cole from Azurri.

Coach Bobby Ferguson says he still needs two more players but plans to axe Villani have been shelved.

Villani has worked hard to get back in favor with Ferguson and came close to becoming the hero of the match.

He looked set to score in the final minute but became tangled with Mullen and that gave Gary Meier enough time to scoop up the ball.

Sydney Olympic meanwhile will not be content to merely have a good year. It wants to win the premiership and I believe it will do so!

But Docherty must be concerned with his midfield which is not dominating the opposition as it ought to.

Katholos and Patikas, as brilliant as they both are, only give the impression they plan to steamroll the enemy.

If Docherty can sort out his midfield and with Soper in such deadly form, Olympic could yet win the title that it looked capable of claiming for a while last year.

Stalemate for the Saints, Slickers

By PETER SCOTT

Syd. City 0 St. George 0

Venue: Sydney Athletic Field, Monday.

Crowd: 2984.

Referee: A. Owens 4.

Cautions: Ratcliffe (SLG), Gomez (SC).

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH:

Clarke 8 — Cant 6, Robertson 6, O'Connor 6, Bruce 8 — Kay 6, Barnes 4, Gomez 7 — Watson 6, Kosmina 8, Boden 6 (Seuness 76th).

ST. GEORGE BUDAPEST:

Greedy 8 — Skaen 5, Ratcliffe 7, M. O'Shea 6, R. O'Shea 6 — Barton 6, Stone 6, J. O'Shea 6 — Slater 5, Muskovics 5, Marton 4.

Both teams had the chance to join Brisbane City as joint NSL leaders by winning this postponed match, but instead, a spirited tussle ended goalless and satisfied no-one.

Neither team was in command of the basic skills —

perhaps due to fatigue after having played the previous day as well — especially in midfield.

The ebb and flow of the game was not helped by one of the worst refereeing displays of the year, from Arthur Coates, who impartially confused both sides.

The few who stood out were Soccerpro skipper John Kosmina of Hakoah and Terry Greedy and David Ratcliffe of Budapest.

Hakoah's left back Ian Bruce, competent and composed as usual, almost clinched the game for his side a minute after half time with one of the greatest shots we've seen this year.

Alas, he, like his team-mate Paul Kay a little later, managed only to rattle the woodwork.

Hakoah was a little closer to a win than Budapest, but even though Budapest deserved a penalty for handball, a draw probably was a far result.

McDowell to join Purdie at J.U.S.T.

FOOTS JUST 0 Marconi 4

Venue: Schintler Reserve.

Crowd: about 1800.

Scorers: Henderson 10th, Brown 20th, McCulloch 60th, Licata 85th.

Referee: Stewart Mellings 9.

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.: Boland 6 — Stojovski 4, Habsch 4, Kyriakoulas 5, Lige 4 — Curovic 4 (Simic 65th), Taylor 4, Carroll 6, Belle 6 — Paton 6, Macleod 4.

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD: James 8 — Bozanic 7, Henderson 8, Degney 7, Rizzotto 8 — Carbone 7, McCulloch 9, Serrmann 9, O'Rourke 9 (Licata 70th) — Jankovics 7, Brown 9.

And now — two more reinforcements for Footscray J.U.S.T. Ian Purdie, Canberra's top scorer last year, is expected to sign this week after Immigration Department red tape is cleared up.

And Gary McDowell of Scottish First Division club Hamilton Academicals is expected soon.

McDowell has played mainly in attack — in fact he scored 10 league and Cup goals in 1981/82. However, J.U.S.T. coach Bobby McLachlan hopes McDowell may be able to fill one of the centre-back positions.

Since Jim O'Reilly was transfer-listed and Jim Kondarios quit, J.U.S.T. has been brittle in defence.

When it faced up to Marconi last Sunday without its makeshift sweeper Graham Tutill who was suspended, the defence literally fell to pieces.

All credit to Marconi, though.

Marconi won the pre-season NSW Ampol Cup, so its position on the ladder before Sunday's game — second last, just ahead of J.U.S.T. — did not appear to make sense.

But then Marconi has had injury problems, and last Sunday its stopper Ricky Budini was suspended, forcing Paul Degney to play in that position.

Rod Brown was back however, and what a performance he put on!

I'd never seen him play, having only heard of his exploits with the national youth team, for which he has scored 12 goals.

He's sharp as a razor, and he has the enthusiasm of youth: definitely the best player of the match, although Tom McCulloch and Tom Serrmann were of a comparable standard, totally outplaying their J.U.S.T. opponents.

It was an impressive performance by Marconi, but it would be premature to hail a Marconi revival because the opposition was so abysmal. Let's wait for Marconi's encounter with Heidelberg on Sunday.

Jason O'Rourke, 24, who came from Avala on a free transfer, made his debut for



Laurie Schwab



at Schintler Reserve since 1977, J.U.S.T. has lost six and drawn one.

While Marconi's dominance hasn't changed, the teams certainly have.

Of the two teams that clashed in Sydney last year, when JUST won 2-0, 11 were no longer there last Sunday: Ivo Prskalo, Bertie Mariani, Hilton Silva, and Roberto Vieri of Marconi, and Murtin Clir, Jim O'Reilly, Jim Kondarios, Jim Milne, Zoran Ilioski, Milan Kojic and Mendo Ristovski of J.U.S.T.

J.U.S.T., incidentally, never has finished higher than eighth on the NSL ladder — and that was in 1977, the league's first year. Its lowest position was 14th in 1982 and 1981, but last Sunday's form indicates that this could be the year of the wooden spoon.

Vlatko Belic of J.U.S.T. had the first scoring chance of the game, when he burst into the penalty area on a pass from Gus Macleod, but shot too high.

Then the J.U.S.T. defence stood in a trance, watching a free kick from McCulloch going across goal to Tony Henderson, who, unmarked, tucked it past Dennis Boland neatly to put Marconi ahead.

A low shot by Ken Taylor missed narrowly, and at the other end, Boland, down on the ground, used his legs to block Brown.

But Brown scored a few minutes later, putting the ball away after Mark Jankovics had cut it back from the line.

Brown had another chance just after half time, streaking away after Taylor had missed the ball in midfield. Boland came out towards him, Brown lobbed it over Boland, but saw the ball go wide of the post.

J.U.S.T. coach Bobby McLachlan reorganised his defence in the second half, bringing Taylor back to the sweeper's position, moving Ivor Hazebant from sweeper to left back, and Zdravko Lujic from left back to the left wing.

But it did little to blunt Marconi's sharpness. Jankovics, inside the penalty area, had a shot blocked by Slobodan Stojcevski, and had another saved by Boland before McCulloch struck with goal No. 3.

Licata, who had come on as a substitute, notched No. 4 after a run down the left with five minutes to go.



Marconi revival because the opposition was so abysmal. Let's wait for Marconi's encounter with Heidelberg on Sunday.

Jason O'Rourke, 24, who came from Avala on a free transfer, made his debut for Marconi and although he looks a fair player, I'd be more inclined to use Renato Licata on the left. He looked impressive and he scored a goal after replacing O'Rourke. Still, coach Doug Collins will need ready-made replacement players for Licata, McCulloch and Brown when this trio leaves for Mexico with the national youth team in June.

It's in June, during the World Youth Championships, that any Marconi revival may be reversed, because of the absence of these young stars.

Steve Winn from England may be the replacement for Brown up front, and perhaps Tony Henderson will move into the midfield to replace McCulloch when he goes.

If Joe Rizzotto, the Marconi left back, continues to play as well as he did last Sunday, he too may be off to Mexico.

Back to the game.

It rounded off J.U.S.T.'s abysmal home record against Marconi. Of their seven games

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Karen the administrative king pin



Karen Grega, Canberra's administrator

Ring Canberra 48 0708 and the odds are the phone will be answered, in a very pleasant female voice: "Canberra Arrows."

Ask to speak to the administrator, and the same voice says: "She's speaking. It's Karen Grega here."

Yes, Canberra Arrows is the only senior soccer club in the country with a full-time woman administrator, a case of women's lib breaking through?

Well, hardly, attractive Karen is not about to burn her bra, it's more a case of beauty with brains, for she owes her present eminent position to a lot of hard work and a determination to succeed in a soccer job.

Born about 25 years ago, in Brisbane, Karen is first generation Australian, and with a Scottish mother and a Czech father probably was fated to a soccer career.

Whilst studying for her Bachelor of Arts at Queensland Institute of Technology, she took, as her Sociology thesis, the impact of Brisbane City on the ethnic community.

After some freelance writing for the Queensland Soccer Federation, Karen took off for the "big smoke", working for the next three years liaising with Australian Soccerpools for the PSL Marketing Committee.

From Soccerpools she moved to Canberra, working in marketing for the CTC station, now Capital 7, before beating a big field of applicants for her present job. Karen's experience in the game isn't confined to the theoretical side, she played too, in Queensland, and any Arrows feeling like whinging about the referee's decisions, beware, she is also an experienced referee!

— LES SHORROCK

Charlie Perkins pulls

no punches

Charlie Perkins married controversy years ago. They've got a "perfect" relationship.

Now in his second term as president of the national capital's national league club, the man once described as "a stirrer of our collective consciences," faced a major crisis when he resumed his club presidency early last year. Canberra was set to fold.

Faced with debts around \$380,000 the club looked doomed, until Downer Olympic stepped in.

Canberra Arrows were saved by the merger but the old Canberra City still exists, albeit merely for another three years or so until all debts are honored. So far the club debt has been reduced to \$240,000.

"A few nongs and smart arses got us into this situation. Then they bugged off and left a handful of blokes carrying the can," said Perkins.

"But we've got big things lined up. We've gone into a management relationship with a private firm which is putting up about \$250,000 to refurbish our old social rooms."

Perkins thinks that regionalisation, on the basis of say, a southern and northern region, is okay, provided that the national character of the competition is maintained through a top four tournament and perhaps an end-of-season knock-out cup.

But it's to the general malaise of Australian soccer which Perkins best turns his incisive commentary.

"Soccer's on its knees here. Therefore it has a great opportunity to rehabilitate itself."

"The re-organisation of the administration and the

development of a sound economic base are the major issues facing Australian soccer not regionalisation, not ethnic names, not who should or shouldn't coach the national team. They are the kind of problems we often focus upon. In so doing we lose sight of the main issues."

"When people start seeing a connection between playing junior soccer in say, Canberra, and playing senior soccer with the Australian national team, then we'll be getting somewhere at long last. Soccer is the number one participants' sport in this country but it's light years away from being the number one sport, full stop."

Perkins pulls no punches when he identifies the major problem area in Australian soccer — the administrators.

"Most of our administrators are incompetent and out of date. We're being governed by a body of geriatrics who have a genuine love for the game but have no idea how to run it."

"The hiring of Rudi Gurendorf and our failure to make the last World Cup finals are mere symptoms of the disease."

"If we want quick results, that is, immediate change, then blood will have to be spilt. Some people have to retire immediately!"

"This Peter Sheehan's got some great ideas but he'll soon become institutionalised. That won't take long, sad to say."

"Look, I've seen soccer in different parts of the world and I'm positive that we've got the ability here to take us into the top four in the world if we plan properly. We've got great talent here, on the field, not off. It's like feeding strawberries to pigs, having these good young players under the authority of these blokes who wouldn't know a soccer player from a sack of spuds."

Perkins suggests a national seminar be held over two days involving representatives from every niche of our soccer sub culture.

Having long championed Aboriginal rights, he probably best understands problems of ethnicity which are at the heart of the make-up of Australian soccer.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE



Canberra, 1983. Back row: Derek Robinson, Roy Thomson (assistant coach), Tony Brennan, Phil Redmond, John Walsh, Ian Stone, John Moutsopoulos, Marko Perinovic, Jan Gibson, George Christopoulos, George Murray (coach). Front row: Terry Byrne, Andrew Young, Don Maclaren, Paul Ontong, Chris Hummell, Steve Hoszowski, Duncan Cole, Jim Murray, Steve Bryant. At right: Frank Farina.



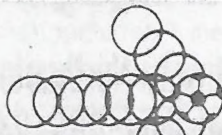
The Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, meets the Arrows before the kick-off to this year's first home game against Brisbane Lions, which Canberra won 6-1.



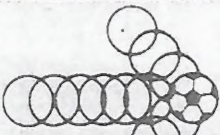
Former Canberra player Roy Stark holds high the Minister's Cup, an annual home and away challenge trophy fought for between Canberra and Newcastle.



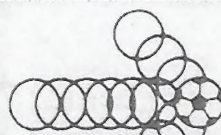
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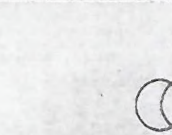
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MURRAY MOST AXE TWO PLAYERS SOON

George Murray, uncommonly bereft of coaching jargon, reinforces my belief in the majestic simplicity of soccer, the sport which can tingle the nerve ends of billions of humans.

"I joke about all these fancy words that are in vogue now, tell my players in simple terms about what I want," says Murray.

"You can tell a good player the minute he strikes the ball. He's off immediately to help the player in possession of the ball. If any of my players, during training, don't do that I whistle for a free kick and give the ball to the other side. "Soccer's a game of habits. I love to see players expressing themselves but sometimes I think the players here don't believe in themselves enough. But I've got no doubts that when soccer's played well, it's the best competitive ball sport in the world. That's at the highest level. When you drop down the ladder a bit you have to play to your limitations. Attacking football is great but you always build up from the back so you have to have a good defence to build on. Good sides believe in themselves from the start.

"When we played Footscray recently in Melbourne we were absolutely terrible. Take the example of Ian Gibson. He got the ball in a corner and everyone ran away from him. That's lack of discipline and confidence. When we beat Heidelberg the other week in Canberra neither team wanted to play in the first half. But when we scored first, we had a game at last. In the end we ran out a convincing winner (3-0) but I've got few doubts that had Heidelberg scored first the result could have been just as convincing to them. We seem to wait until we score before we start to play.

"However, this is the best squad I've had since I've come here. In fact, it's a bit too big, once everyone's fit. I'll have to let a couple of players go shortly, which I'm not looking forward to but that's part of a game."

Murray is excited about the development of Canberra Ar-

rows youth policy. He experienced similar delight with Scottish giant Aberdeen, which has had a successful youth policy for many years.

It's only in the last five years, however, that Aberdeen has effectively tapped its local area in the north of Scotland. Black, Hewitt, Simpson and Cooper are local products all in the first team pool at Pittodrie.

Canberra's young brigade includes John Moutsopoulos, Jim Murray, Andrew Young, Frank Parina and Chris Hummell. Let's look at Murray's view of these youngsters:

MOUTSOPOULOS: "I remember his first senior game. He was just 17 and I had to bring him in against Sydney City. I asked him if he could do the job. He asked me if I thought he could do the job. I said yes. He said okay, he can do the job then. If you give him a job to do, like telling him to go out and mark someone, he'll do it all day long. That's the beauty of working with him. When he wins the ball he sometimes doesn't do enough with it but that's just a matter of confidence and we're working on it."

MURRAY: "His first game was a friendly against Wollongong last season. A supporter came up to me before the game and asked me if I'd put Jim in the team just because he's my nephew. I wonder what that supporter thinks now. Jim's worked hard. He's a useful centre back and he'll get even better. Take it from me."

YOUNG: "The lad was thrown into the deep end earlier this year when we played Wollongong in a cup match. In my time here, we've managed to contain Phil O'Connor once

and that was in that match. Young contained him, so that says a lot about this boy's potential."

FARINA: "Unfortunately he's only played once, against Adelaide City, then he was injured at training. We've only got him on loan but I'm hoping that we'll sign him. He's a very exciting player. He's really quick and he's very brave, which is unusual in a quick player. He knows where the goals are too and he's got two good feet."

HUMMELL: "An exceptionally fine young keeper. In Steve Hoszowski, we've got the best keeper in Australia right now. I know that. But even Hoszowski is looking over his shoulder, which tells you how good this boy Hummell is."

Murray worked under Ally Macleod at Aberdeen. When Macleod became Scotland manager, Murray expected to take over as manager of Aberdeen. Instead the club's board of directors appointed Billy McNeill, who now manages Glasgow Celtic. Murray was disillusioned. He had been told that he was being groomed to take over from Macleod.

Murray went to Norway and coached Odd, one of the most famous clubs in the land of the Vikings. There, he groomed his successor, assistant coach Morten Larsen.

"The good Norwegian players are very skilful but they have to leave Norway to improve themselves. The climate is a drawback there. Because of the snow, they have a fairly short season."

Murray was on his way to join another Norwegian club when news came that he had been offered the Canberra job. That was in late 1980. Now, in



When the national soccer competition was formulated in 1975, a team from Canberra was not contemplated

However, when the first match in the competition greeted a sceptical media and public in 1977, among the grand old clubs was the infant pretender, Canberra City, whose birth was decidedly premature. The vision of its creators was hampered by the cold, hard economics of the undertaking.

The club had chosen Australia's favourite soccer son, Johnny Warren, to coach and to promote the team and, with the able assistance of Victor Fernandez, Warren battled against the odds and Canberra City finished the season in second-last place.

In 1977, 23,150 attended the matches at Manuka Oval and in the following year 65,175 turned out at Canberra City's new home, Bruce Stadium.

The peak in 1978 was 8,458 for the match against Marconi.

Among City's passing attractions was the likeable Peter Marinello, undeniably its most popular import. Liverpool's Ian Callaghan in 1979 was a costly import and showed his class.

In City's first year, Soccercoo Adrian Alston made several guest appearances.

Youngsters Danny Moulis, Mike Milovanovic and Steve Hogg were chosen for the national youth team. When Tony Henderson made the senior national squad, after devoted service to Canberra.

In 1978, Warren disagreed with some club policies and he resigned at the end of the season.

In 1979, Fernandez set about nurturing Canberra's juniors and many promising players graduated through the Colts team.

Canberra's supporters' club was the envy of others as its fund raising kept the club's doors open and enabled the purchase of goalkeeper Steve Hoszowski.

George Bailey, Isaac Farrell and Paul Fielding were added by the directors' choice and Canberra finished 12th in 1979, with six wins, eight draws and 12 losses. Attendances at Bruce fell to 53,951, the highlight of the season being the 7,510 fans who saw the match against Brisbane Lions.

Canberra's board was ambitious for success. Fernandez knew the players he wanted and succeeded in securing three of them, the O'Shea brothers, in a package for \$22,000 plus the sale of midfielder John Davis.

Then, two New Zealand internationals, Duncan Cole and Richard Wilson, were lured to Canberra for minuscule transfer fees.

However, the club had long wanted strikers Sebastian Giampolo and Walter Valeri, who had piloted the Monaro team to the NSW State championship in 1979.

After a prolonged transfer wrangle, City eventually found \$40,000 for the two players. At the same time, the club secured Brisbane Lions striker Tony Brennan in a \$20,000 transfer package which included the return of Hogg to his home State.

But Fernandez always seemed to be under pressure from the club. Losses to Marconi, Heidelberg and South Melbourne, punctuated by a 4-0 against Newcastle, and then victories against West Adelaide and Sydney City, were not enough. On June 1, 1980,

Many of the faces have changed — but the above picture shows the original squad that served Canberra City so well in its inaugural year. From left (back row), Billy Smith (team's assistant), Roy Stark, Jimmy Cant, John Brown, Ian Lindenmayer, Ron Tilsed, Adrian Alston, Mike Milovanovic, Oscar Langone, John Warren. Middle row: Keni Kawaleva, Brian Stoddart, Chris Tomlinson, Mike Black, Vic Fernandez, Ken Henderson, Ivan Grujicic, Nick Boskov, Danny Moulis. Front row: David O'Connor, Alan Bourke, Greg Willett, Luis Saigardo, Steven Hogg.

The infant grows up

By BERNIE HARRIS

Fernandez, whose health was suffering, had had enough.

With his team trooped in from a 2-1 draw with Brisbane City, he tearfully announced his resignation.

John Brown took over the reins and worked hard with the squad. Eventually, Canberra finished the season with seven wins, seven draws and 12 losses, occupying 10th place on the ladder, a best result to that point.

With hindsight, 1981 was the year when Canberra City's relationship with the community changed. Erstwhile sponsor Brian Pollock stepped down (though still providing a motor car as a player-of-the-year prize).

NSW Lotto sponsored the team to the extent of \$30,000 and made many other contributions. With the investment came name and strip changes. The blue and gold went, as did the club song, to be replaced by the white and multi-colour motif of Lotto. The team became the Canberra Arrows.

The team that Fernandez had created was kept together and the highly professional George Murray took over the helm. The door Scot came to a club that faced immense financial difficulties but, as a true professional, set about moulding the team into a winning combination.

At season's end, he had piloted the Arrows to 13 wins, seven draws and 10 losses in the enlarged 16-team league. More importantly, the team finished fifth, ahead of Brisbane Lions with the same points, through a better goal difference.

Murray had only one major signing at the beginning of the season, Dutchman Jan Massa. It is fair to comment that the signing was not a success and indirectly led to the loss of Isaac Farrell to Preston.

Goalkeeper Richard Wilson, returning from international, could not out-Hoszowski and Wilson transferred to Preston as well.

Murray did not approve the sale of Giampolo to Leichhardt.

That player's replacements were Ian Purdie and Ian Gibson, from Britain.

The club entered 1982 with its financial plight public knowledge. It was rescued and the team saved for the

season by a partnership with the Downer Olympic soccer Club.

The subsequent mid-year assumption by Downer of the full financing responsibilities of the team, when the Soccer Club of Canberra was unable to meet certain payments, has been well documented in The Canberra Times.

Murray's team underwent further changes. The most devastating blow was the loss of the O'Shea brothers. Cole missed the early part of the year through World Cup commitments and played with his former club in New Zealand for the balance of the year, before joining Fernandez, now successfully coaching the Tung Sing club in Hong Kong.

Midway through the season, Valeri returned to Monaro Milovanovic, after a stint with Blacktown, rejoined the team, and Ian Stone and John Moutsopoulos were regular squad members.

Murray bought players who would have been welcomed with open arms in any league team. Paul Ontong came from Brisbane Lions but was dogged by injury. The Australian Institute of Sport under the guidance of Jimmy Shoulder was cementing the foundations for Australia's recent Youth Cup victories and Murray got Angelo Ambrosino. But his coup de maître — or so it seemed at the time — was the acquisition of Soccercoo midfielders George Christopoulos and Garry Byrne.

Later in the season, another British signing, Steve Bryant, arrived.

For all that, the season was a disaster. The Arrows finished second last and were relegated, but they applied successfully for re-admission.

District support fell away to such a degree that toward the end of the season fewer than 1,000 attended some matches.

For all that, the National Soccer League, has been the pacesetter to other sporting pursuits. In Canberra, the Arrows have the potential to command a sizeable audience. This year, if the performance is there, the community by its support or lack of it will determine the future of the Arrows.

George Murray

his third season, he successfully has overcome probably the major crisis in his coaching career, when Canberra threatened to fold last year.

"I'd just come back from holiday to find that the club was set to fold up. There were a series of meetings to save the club and finally Downer Olympic came along, and eventually bought out the club."

"Canberra City as a club name is dead. We are Canberra Arrows now. We have a broad multicultural base. If we had to rely solely on the local Greek community for support we couldn't survive."

Murray though, isn't so optimistic when he looks at the state of Australian soccer.

"Everyone here has great difficulty in agreeing on just about anything and no-one speaks with any authority. Back in Scotland or England, if the F.A. secretary speaks it's the same as delivering a policy statement. It's law. Here people talk about summer soccer then change their mind. Now it's regionalisation they're talking about."

"As far as I'm concerned, the best players in the country, with a couple of exceptions, are playing in the NSL. Frankly, if we break into two 12-team regions, I can't see us having enough good players to go around. Then, the quality of competition will suffer."

At present, Murray sees Canberra having its best year yet in the national league. It's highest finish to date has been 5th, achieved in Murray's first year as coach.

"I'll be bitterly disappointed if we don't at least finish in the first six. Right now, we're looking at finishing in the first four."

— CRAIG MACKENZIE



Cumming and Latif the danger men

Juventus looks set to record its second successive defeat when it runs into mighty Melbourne Croatia at Olympic Park on Sunday.

Croatia stayed on course toward the 1983 State League championship when it easily accounted for Morwell Falcons last weekend and on the wide spaces of Olympic Park's No.1 ground, should be too well organised for Juventus.

This will be Croatia's first home game in State League this season. Olympic Park No.1 ground has been unavailable to date, which means that Croatia's remarkable scoring record — 18 goals for and one against — is all the more amazing. It has been achieved solely away from home.

And Olympic Park's main ground should suit John Gardiner's charges. Tommy Cumming and Ozzie Latif so far are staging a two man war for leading State League scorer's honors, an ominous sign for the Juventus back four.

Morwell Falcons are struggling. They're not the attacking combination they were last

season and at times the defence looks very dodgy. The side lacks balance and frankly, I don't think that the first team squad is as harmonious as it should be.

I think that Green Gully Ajax will get back on the winning trail by downing Falcons at Green Gully Reserve on Sunday. Everyone seems to be tearing strips off Ajax whenever it fails to win by three or four goals. When it draws a game it seems that disaster has struck. That's unfair to Ajax which has now gone 15 consecutive games without defeat under coach Len McKendry. It's also insulting to sides like Box Hill to suggest that Ajax has hit rock bottom by drawing with the Wembley Park boys.

While talking about the Hill-men, let's look at their clash with Ringwood Wilhelmina at Jubilee Park on Sunday.

A feature of coach Bill Murray's approach this season has been his preparedness to go against

team take the game right up to the opposition. This philosophy has paid off. Critics, especially yours truly, slammed Box Hill as it labored through the Buffalo Cup competition earlier this year but the league is the real bread and butter stuff and in this department the young Hillmen have made a marvellous start toward achieving their aim of consolidating their State League status. They can continue on their successful way by recording their third league victory when they clash with struggling Wilhelmina.

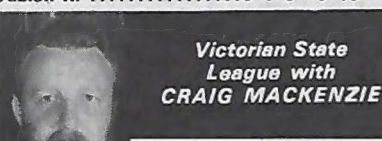
Mike Lynn tells me that I haven't selected Polonia for a win this season. Let's redress that situation immediately. Polonia will beat Sunshine-George Cross at Raleigh Reserve on Sunday.

However, should the combine, despite being one of the poorest team units in the league, defy the odds and knock off Polonia, Lynn and his players may change their tune about my tips and beg me to

Schipano HOME FURNITURE

BUFFALO SPORTS STATE LEAGUE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CROATIA	5	1	0	18	1	11
JUVENTUS	4	1	1	10	3	9
AJAX	3	3	0	9	3	9
POLONIA	4	1	1	9	6	9
Croydon	4	0	2	10	6	8
Morwell F.	3	1	2	8	9	7
Northcote	3	1	2	8	10	7
Fawkner	2	2	2	8	8	6
Box Hill	2	2	2	6	7	6
Doveton	1	2	3	7	10	4
S.-Geo. Cross	1	1	4	8	13	3
Wilhelmina	1	1	4	5	11	3
Hellas	0	1	5	7	16	1
Albion R.	0	1	5	0	10	1



Victorian State League with CRAIG MACKENZIE

This weekend's games with likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY
SM Hellas v FAWKNER at Middle Park, 2.45pm.

SUNDAY
Doveton v CROYDON at Waverley Reserve, 3pm.

POLONIA v Sun-G. Cross at Raleigh Reserve, 3pm.

CROATIA v Juventus at Olympic Park No.1, 3pm.

G. G. AJAX v Morwell Falcons at Green Gully Reserve, 3pm.

NORTHCOTE v Albion at John Cain Reserve, 3pm.

Wilhelmina v BOX HILL at Jubilee Park, 3pm.

Croatia crushes Falcons

MORWELL FALCONS 0 MELBOURNE CROATIA 3 (Cumming 18th), Latif penalty 26th, Gojevic 35th at North Crigian Reserve.

MORWELL FALCONS: Halkett 9 — Irvine 8 — Smart 6, Higham 7, Darby 7, Train 6, O'Callaghan 6, MacLean 6, Evans 8 (J. van Baar 55th 6), McGuinness. Coach: Tony Boggi.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Blesby 8 — Curran 7, Ferton 8, Adams 6, Hannah 7 (Bilalovic 80th) — Bliskic 8, Antolovic 7, Faulkner 7, Gojevic 9 (Inj. Brogan 56th) — Latif 7, Cumming 8. Coach: John Gardiner.

"People have been pushing for Andrew Zinni's inclusion in the Australian youth team recently but what about Steve Gojevic? This kid's a different class altogether."

That's how Croatia coach John Gardiner summed up a man-of-the-match performance from his 18 year old midfielder. Gojevic beat opponents with ease, continually getting in behind a packed Falcons' defence, and topped off a great display by scoring a fine goal in the first half as Croatia turned in its best 45 minutes of the year in this period.

Croatia pounded Falcons in the first half and created many chances. It's first goal, in the 18th minute, came from a spectacular overhead kick by Tommy Cumming.

About eight minutes later, Grant Smart decided against jockeying Gojevic and brought down the young midfielder from behind, giving the referee no option but to point to the penalty spot. Ozzie Latif made no mistake to put Croatia 2-0 up.

Gojevic's superb solo run in the 35th minute, beating two opponents, was finished off in style when he cracked home a fine shot from just inside the Falcons' area to make it 3-0.

Falcons did better in the second stanza, mainly because Croatia lapsed into giving the ball away far too easily. Falcons' intentions were clear from the outset. They lined up with five at the back. Grant Smart and Jim Train were the full backs. John Higham and Brian Darby were used as stoppers while Sandy Irvine played sweeper.

Polonia striker Janusz Przybyla

JUVENTUS 1 (Incantalupo 23rd) POLONIA 2 (Przybyla 69th, 77th) at Olympic Park No. 2, Sunday.

JUVENTUS: Clayton 6 — V. Bannan 6, P. Bannan 6, Drinocky 7, Hird 4 — Swinscoe 7, Rogers 6, G. Bannan 6 — Zinni 6 (Inj. French H.T. 4), Lloyd 7 (Inj. 79th Nelson), Incantalupo 8. Coach: John Marshall.

POLONIA: Dzielekowski 8 — Lipiarski 7, Mila 8, McCluskey 7, Smolarek 6 — Laskic 6, P. Czapnik 7, A. Czapnik 7, G. Petrov 6 — Marshall 8, Przybyla 8. Coach: Mike Lynn.

Once again Juventus missed too many chances and should have been at least three goals up by the 60th minute, but Polonia kept wearing it down and scored twice from a total of three

chances given by an unusually undisciplined black and white defence.

That is one way of summing up the game, because patchy Juventus was by far the most dangerous of the two, while balanced Polonia always looked the better team, almost like a steady boxer able to neutralise the wild swings of an opponent and running out the winner on points by consistent work on the midriff to make the opposition drop its guard and then, bang, bang... two quick punches on the chin to take the "championship rounds".

And once again Juventus had to leave Andrew Zinni in the dressing rooms at half time, because of a nagging foot injury that has plagued

the young star for a month. Hard working Kevin Lloyd also was slowed down considerably by an injury and forced to give up in the 79th minute. But Juventus' main problem was in defence, where Harry Hird had one of his very rare bad days and Pat Bannan was often out of position, looking for glory upfield instead of patiently sweeping behind rock-solid Paul Drinocky and out of touch Hird. The experienced captain should learn to play with his head, rather than his heart, now that his eyes are not what they used to be.

Polonia was given excellent service by goalkeeper Leszek Dzielekowski who catapulted himself over players' heads to clear all the high balls; by a very businesslike Stefan Mila who swept up with a non-sense approach (earning a yellow card and risking a red) and organised the defence and the midfield; and by Alex Marshall and Janusz Przybyla who played deep and wide to draw the defence out, then quickly moved in for the kill.

In the 7th minute Juventus could have hit the front when Fabio Incantalupo leapt high to meet a cross by Vince Bannan, but Dzielekowski brilliantly lifted the ball over the bar. After a couple of half-hearted attempts by Przybyla and Andrew Czapnik in the 17th and 21st minutes, the black and whites scored in the 23rd minute when Ged Bannan closed in from the right and sent a bouncing ball for the far corner. Zinni raced forward like lightning, committing Dzielekowski, but the ball eluded them both and went to unmarked Incantalupo who had no trouble tapping it in. For the rest of the first half Juventus was dangerous in patches, while Polonia had more possession of the ball and quickly closed down the opposition.

In the second half, Juventus

started at a whirlwind pace and firmly took the initiative. In the 50th minute Kevin Swinscoe went for a thrilling solo run, shaking all opponents but finished with a weak shot right into the arms of Dzielekowski. Two minutes later Incantalupo chased a long ball and with incredible sustained speed left all behind, only to shoot fractionally wide when he had space and time to even round the hapless goalkeeper. In the 60th minute, Graham Swinscoe was sent off with a cross from the right by Hird, but his header shaved the crossbar.

In the 69th minute came the blunder of the season. With Juventus surging forward Dzielekowski punched the ball high and long into the Juventus' half, where Hird watched it bounce over his head without an attempt to gain possession and then stood flat-footed to let Marshall go away with it unoppressed. The tall Polonia striker quickly raced to the left, taking what was left of the defence with him and then lifting to the far post where Przybyla, undisturbed, chested down and slotted in for the easiest of goals.

The equaliser unsettled Juventus even further and Przybyla nearly scored again with an angled scorcher in the 76th minute, but Clayton dived to his left to pull off a good save. A minute later Przybyla made no mistake when a long ball by Rick Lipiarski found him in a favorable one-on-one situation with Drinocky, and nobody else in sight, to give him another easy chance. Two minutes later Lloyd was forced to leave the field injured, replaced by Jim Nelson. For Juventus it was curtains.

Polonia is a well balanced team. It was brought out to be denied by the bravery and anticipation of Box Hill goalkeeper John McKinnay who smothered well. Then Bobby Toal had a good chance to increase Ajax's lead but

Gorman back

NORTHCOTE 1 (Constantinou penalty 64th) RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 0 at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCOTE: Glennopoulos 7 — Cutler 7, Moore 9, Greeny 6, Mihos 5 — Wilson 7, Wright 6, Cullina 7 — Sahlidis 7, Tzatos 6 (Pavlidis 85th), Constantinou 7. Coach: Tony Vrzina.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Jensen 8 — Cavillie 8, de Cort 7 (Inj. Pazman 60th), Brooks 7, Verniers 6 — Pena 6, Tront 7, Burton 7 — Whyte 6, Cork 7, Stewart 6. Coach: Mike de Bruyckere.

Three things can stop Ringwood Wilhelmina getting relegated this season: first, top class players; second, the regionalisation of the national competition (which probably would enlist three State League clubs and may save Wilhelmina from the drop); or the disbandment of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

Of course, this line of argument is premature with just six weeks of league rounds played so far. The argument also will prove spurious if Wilhelmina doesn't finish in one of the last two places in the league but as we know by Wilhelmina and Albion hold over larger as the main candidates to prop up the league ladder.

Northcote's revival, after finishing second last in 1982,

continued at Wilhelmina's expense at John Cain Reserve on Sunday. This was far from a high standard spectacle and it took a second half penalty to decide the issue.

Northcote striker Peter Constantinou, playing his best 45 minutes of soccer this year in the second half here, converted the penalty awarded after Jim Sahlidis broke clear onto a long, Steve Moore through ball only to be felled by a Wilhelmina defender. The Wilhelmina camp was adamant after the match that the offence took place just outside the area. However, the referee saw differently, pointed to the spot and young Constantinou made no mistake.

Northcote played new signing, Gary Cutler from Albion, at right back, pushing Mark Wilson into midfield. Jeff Gorman, who flew back from Northern Ireland on Saturday, was playing his best. He looks likely to replace young George Mihos at left back. More good news for the North-ers should be the return of captain George Bozakis, who has been sidelined ever since his ankle made the mistake of tangling with one of big Alex Marshall's boots and midfielder Colin Quigley could return from suspension.

ZAHRA'S PLEA

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS 1 (Pate 61st) DOVETON 2 (Buchanan 9th, Dowie 41st) at Chaplin Reserve, Sunday.

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS: Contini 4 — Bennett 4, Richardson 4, Scari 6, Taylor 7, Stevenson 4, G. G. S. Pate 6 — Blair 4, Gilder 7, Kotovski 5 (Ellis 75th). Coach: Tommy Traynor.

DOVETON: Keogh 8 — Huihui 6, Thurlow 8, Merrick 7 — McFarlane 7, Dowie 7, Buchanan 7 — Webster 7, Stinton 6, M. Lennon 6 (Bartlett 70th). Coach: Ernie Merrick.

Sunshine-George Cross president Alf Zahra made an impassioned plea for patience from the combine's supporters when I spoke to him after this match.

"Okay, so supporters have a right to grumble. I accept that. But I'm asking our people to give our players and our new coach time to knit together. A group of our supporters got together after the match and were suggesting that this player and that player should be shipped back to the U.K. That's not the answer! And it's no good saying that Tommy Traynor isn't as good as Ken Wagstaffe. That's not going to help us," said Zahra.

Look, I believe in these players we've got. I know that they are good players. I know that they can do a great job for our club, if given time and encouragement. It's not the end of the world every time we lose. Be patient."

Doveton's first State League win in 1983 didn't look likely

when it went 1-0 down with just six minutes played. Norrie Pate gave the combine a dream start when he headed in from a Nick Kotovski corner.

Three minutes later the Doves hit back. Stan Webster rounded Steve Richardson, took the ball to the by-line, then cut it back. The incoming Bill Buchanan shot from about 15 metres and although Steve Scerri got a boot to the ball he couldn't stop it going into goal past combine custodian Alan Contini.

With four minutes left in the first half the Doves bagged what was to prove the winner. It came via the skill and vision of classy midfielder John Dowie. The ex-Fulham and Glasgow Celtic player curled his free kick around the combine's defensive wall. Contini got a hand to the ball, tipping it onto the bar, but it rebounded down and into goal to make it 2-1.

Sunshine-George Cross threw everything at the Doves in the second half but its lack of system, especially up front where Carl Gilder has to carry the day unaided, cost it dearly.

Aggressive striker Mick McGorran, signed by the combine from Frankston Pines for \$4,000, will make his debut this week. Combine supporters will be hoping that McGorran will prove to be the spark their forward line needs desperately.

Lawler strikes!

BOX HILL 1 (Lawler 93rd) GREEN GULLY AJAX 1 (Paul Lewis 1st) at Wembley Park, Sunday.

BOX HILL: McKinnay 8 — I. Roodhouse 8, Brownlie 9, Lawler 8, Gabrielson 8 — Hughes 7, Miranda 8, Ramos 8 — Short 8, McGorran 7 (Inj. Taylor 65th), Verechia 7. Coach: Bill Murray.

GREEN GULLY AJAX: Denys 8 — D. Boyle 7, Cannell 7, Short 8, Hughes 8 — Greenchan 5 (Ranovic 75th), Vassallo 7, Smallman 7, Williams 6 — Toal 6, Paul Lewis 7. Coach: Len McKendry.

Box Hill struck in the second last minute of injury time to snatch a point away from State League champion Green Gully Ajax on Sunday.

Ajax opened its account after just one minute. David Smallman released Willie Vassallo down the right and the former Maltese international sent over a pinpoint far post cross which was headed in firmly by Paul Lewis to make it 1-0.

shot wide when he should have at least hit the target.

The second half developed into a dog fight. Box Hill came into the game more while Ajax went out. The combine was under pressure, the second time in successive weeks that Ajax has collapsed in the second half.

Denys was in superb touch in the Ajax goal. His ability was best demonstrated in this second half when Peter Verechia laid the ball back to Pedro Ramos whose fierce 18 metre drive was destined for the bottom corner until Denys acrobatically flung himself across to save superbly.

Ajax should have wrapped up this match in the 88th minute but no Ajax player could get a vital touch to the ball driven across the face of the Box Hill goalmouth by Jim Williams.

In the 93rd minute, according to Box Hill's timekeeper, Ian Roodhouse floated across a free kick into the Ajax area. Don Lawler, five metres from goal, had time to pull the ball down, steady, then drill it past Denys for the equaliser. Understandably, Ajax coach Len McKendry was disgusted with the defensive ineptitude highlighted by Lawler's goal.

AMETCO AWARDS

Ametco Travel again is sponsoring our Major State League awards for 1983 — Player of the Year and Top Scorer.

Our Player of the Year wins a return trip to Europe, flying Thai International. The 1983 Top Scorer wins a return trip to Singapore, also flying Thai International.

The Player of the Year award will be decided by voting on a 3-2-1 basis for every State League match. In the event of a tie the player polling most three votes will be declared the winner. This week's votes:

Juventus v Polonia: 3 Mila (P), 2 Incantalupo (J), 1 Przybyla (P).

Morwell v Croatia: 3 Gojevic (J), 2 Halkett (M), 1 Cumming (J).

Sun-G. Cross v Doveton: 3 Keogh (D), 2 Thurlow (D), 1 Dowie (D).

Croydon v Hellas: 3 Irvine (C), 2 Perree (H), 1 Hobson (C).

Leading scorers: 6 — Cumming, Latif (Croatia); 4 — Wade (Croydon), McGuinness (Morwell), Gilder (SGC), Stewart (Wilhelmina).



ANY OF THE STORES — YOUR BUFFALO SPORTS SPECIALIST SOCCER STORES



Triumph for Fawknar — a goal at last. Robert Palmariotti jumps up and hugs Joe Palinkas, the scorer of Fawknar's winning goal against Albion on Saturday. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

PALINKAS WINS IT

ALBION ROVERS 0 FAWKNAR 1 (Palinkas 80th) at Selwyn Park, Saturday.

ALBION ROVERS: Costello 7 — Karabatsos (inj. sub. Galea 7, 11th min), Hennessey 7, Macleod 9, Stuart 7 (inj. sub. Williams 6, half time), Smart 7, Rully 8, Gray 5, Douglas 8 — D'Sylva 6, Coyne 6.

FAWKNER: Terzini 7 — Sabadini 6, Fattore 7, Tuffield 9, Schipano 7 — Mainenti 5 (Palmariotti 65th), B. Sabidussi 5, C. Sabidussi 5 — Palinkas 5, Anselma 6 (Kojic 65th), Cozzella 7.

Fawknar coach Cedo Cirkovic was perfectly honest after the game. "Ask me what I think, and I'll say it should have been a win for Albion or a draw. But of course I'm very happy that it turned out this way — and although we played badly, I promise we will play much better next game at Middle Park, against Hellas. You cannot play on the Albion ground."

Joe Palinkas scored the winning goal 10 minutes from the end — by accident!

He played a one-two with substitute Robert Palmariotti in midfield, the latter played a through pass into space for Palinkas to run onto, and then Palinkas crossed. Lo and behold, the cross went over the head of goalkeeper Tom Costello and fell into the goal behind him. That was the winner. And it left Albion still without a single goal after six matches. That's 540 minutes of football! It was a much better per-

Ristovski and McMillan move to Metro

Mendo Ristovski transferred from Footscray JUST to Metro First Division club Altona Gate for \$3000 last week and made his debut on Sunday in Altona Gate's scoreless draw at home against joint league leader Kew City Celtic.

A crowd of about 800 turned up at Lois Twobig Reserve to watch Arthur McMillan's debut for Second Division club North Dandenong. Among them were McMillan's former Heidelberg team mates Jim Tansey, Jim Campbell and Ken Taylor as well as State coach Tim White, who used to coach Springvale, North's opponent.

Smith, Fitzpatrick, House (7), Tarrant, Crompton. Best: Wild, Carlisle, Drinoczky. Knox: Blesinger, Schroeder, Dixon.

Knox found out what life at the top was all about. Melbourne playing very aggressive soccer, had all the early bite and Knox clearly was not prepared to mix it. Greg House had an early chance but screwed his shot across the goal. The only goal of the game came from a corner and Tiber Drinoczky headed in at the near post — a superb effort. With Knox mid-field non-effective, it was left to long balls for House and Crompton to chase and it wasn't until three minutes from the end that Gurney had a good chance saved by the keeper.

DIVISION TWO
NORTH DANDENONG 1 (Wainwright 7th) SPRINGVALE CITY 2 (Hayland 2).

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE
MELBOURNE 1 (Drinoczky 24th) KNOX CITY 0

MELBOURNE: Toth, A. Szabo, Degnall, Wild, T. Drinoczky, Bird, Carlisle, Milborrow, Urm, McDonald, Hibbit. KNOX: McTuck, Dixon, Schroger, Blesinger, Roddis, Gurney.

Tuffield went down heavily in stopping D'Sylva who was in a scoring position after a fine pass from Reilly. Tuffield received treatment and carried on for the rest of the match, continuing to thwart Albion while limping noticeably. Tuffield also continued to come forward whenever he had the chance, and it was only another fine save by Costello that prevented the big man from scoring.

Coyle had the first scoring chance of the match, dashing away on a through ball from Douglas, but Coyle lost proper control of the ball, under pressure from Tony Schipano. At the other end Bruno Cozzella, meeting a cross from Tony Mainenti, headed the ball straight at Costello.

Albion hit back. Mark Karabatsos was injured in a clash with Cozzella and had to be replaced by Brian Galea in the 11th minute. Galea proved a worthy replacement, emerging as one of the better players of the match.

Coyle broke away again after Schipano and Tuffield had conspired to lose the ball in midfield, but after his long run, Coyle shot poorly straight at goalkeeper Robert Terzini.

The first real glimpse of Fawknar's shooting power came in the 25th minute when Costello had to make a brilliant save to turn a shot by Bruno Sabidussi for a corner. Then Tuffield came through with a devastating run but was stopped at the crucial moment by sweeper Dean Hennessey.

Arthur McMillan, joined North Dandenong

Springvale had scored first, through Hoyland, but North had replied with a penalty before Hoyland scored the winner.

PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE
BULLEEN VENETO 2 (Gennai 26th, Meneguzzi 28th) CLIFTON HILL 4 (S. Kyrakidis 40th, Andriots 44th, 77th, J. Kyrakidis 69th) at Bulleen's ground.

BULLEEN VENETO: Poropat 5, Bain 6 (Boon-Ash, S. Meneguzzi 6, Cassal 7, Zecchin 6, Grassio 6, Sutherland 6, Blesetto 6, Borsotto 6, Salvatore 6, Grassio 6 (75th, Michaloudakis). Coach: F. Tarquinio.

CLIFTON HILL: Dossal 6, Petropoulos 7, Petrikakis 6, Larentz 7, Mastroioli 6, Borgeina 6, S. Kyrakidis 7, Petropoulos 8, Andriots 8, J. Kyrakidis 7, Ceros 6. Coach: P. Michailidis.

The match highlight was the remarkable recovery of Clifton Hill, which came back from a 2-0 deficit to win 4-2, and missed a penalty in the process!

The game began with both sides playing fast, attacking soccer. Clifton Hill was unlucky not to score when the woodwork twice denied it in the 18th and 23rd minute.

But it was Bulleen-Veneto which scored first when Gennai scored a penalty awarded for pushing in the 26th minute. Two minutes later Bulleen went 2-0 up through Meneguzzi who slammed home a looseball from inside the penalty area.

Clifton Hill hit back to score two goals in the space of five

SELECTIONS

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE Saturday: MARSHALL v WESTERN SUBURBS; Richmond v FRANKSTON PINES; Doncaster Rovers v RUSSELLSBURG (draw); Key City v Ball Park (draw); Sunday: ALTONA CITY v ALTONA Gate; Werribee v MELBOURNE.	DIVISION THREE Saturday: CLAREMONT 4 DOONONG v Berrilee; Moe Uni v UNI OF MELBOURNE; CHELSEA v Brunswick City; ALTONA CITY v West Geelong; Delta City v SPRINGVALE CITY; PASCOE VALE v Melbourne West Melbourne v LILLYDALE WANWARRA.
DIVISION TWO Saturday: ARBOR v DANDENONG CITY (draw); Footscray J.U.A.T. v RINGWOOD UTD BERRIA; Kew City v Heidelberg Altona (draw); Drove v THOMASTOWN; Preston Melbourne v ST ALBANS STANBRO; SPRINGVALE CITY v Neerim; North Dandenong v Waverley City.	DIVISION FOUR Saturday: BELLING UTD v East Carlton; Moe Uni v DINGLEY; Murrumbidgee v Diamond Valley (draw); Moorook v Sereno Lake (draw); Moorook v SERENO LAKE; NORTH SUNSHINE v WEST UTD; Pakenham v LILLYDALE UTD.
DIVISION THREE Saturday: ELTHAM v Brighton; YALLANDIN v South Geelong; HEIDELBERG BUNDOORA v Colac; VICTORIA CITY v CAULFIELD CITY; Manly v 3rd Melbourne Maribyrnong (draw); Port Melbourne v ROYAL RICHMOND; SANDRINGHAM v Jambury Utd.	AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION ONE Saturday: MACCARTHER HANAMU v Bundoora; Cheltenham v Balaire City (draw); Pymby Institute v Ascot Utd (draw); Endeavour Hills v Bundoora (draw); EPPING THISTLE v Warragul; Melbourne Uni v VERNON; ROSA UTD v WICK MAREE.
DIVISION FOUR Saturday: KATMANDU v Bundoora; HAWTHORN v Essendon; TROBRIANT v Bundoora; NORTH GEELONG; HANLYN RANGERS v Geelong; CORVO v RUSSELLSBURG; MODURAN CITY v Mooroolbark; FERNETTES GULLY v RUSSELLSBURG.	DIVISION TWO Saturday: CLAYTON v Chelsea; CLIFTON HILL v Carlton; BULLEEN LILLYDALE UTD v Berrilee; East Brunswick v Hockham (draw); Moe Uni v LANGWARRIN; Shepparton City v YARVILLE.
PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE Saturday: NUNAWATUNG UTD v BERRICK CITY; Berrilee v ALBION VALLEY UTD; CROFTON v MELBOURNE; Kew City v CENTRAL CITY.	DIVISION TWO Saturday: SEASIDE GEORGE CROSS v CROFTON; Essendon v TROBRIANT v MELBOURNE; Seaford v Seaford; SEAFORD UTD v NORTH SUNSHINE v ASCOT VALE CITY; RMIT v Waverley; Utd: St Bernards v WEST UTD.
YOUTH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE Saturday: SEASIDE GEORGE CROSS v CROFTON; Essendon v TROBRIANT v MELBOURNE; Seaford v Seaford; SEAFORD UTD v NORTH SUNSHINE v ASCOT VALE CITY; RMIT v Waverley; Utd: St Bernards v WEST UTD.	YOUTH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO Saturday: SEASIDE GEORGE CROSS v CROFTON; Essendon v TROBRIANT v MELBOURNE; Seaford v Seaford; SEAFORD UTD v NORTH SUNSHINE v ASCOT VALE CITY; RMIT v Waverley; Utd: St Bernards v WEST UTD.

minutes to be back on level terms at half-time.

The second half began with Clifton Hill continuing to show its superiority. The fast running play of midfielder P. Petropoulos created many attacking plays for Clifton Hill.

Clifton Hill finally went ahead when J. Kyrakidis shot from the corner of the penalty area and keeper Poropat slipped and watched as the ball trickled into the net, in the 69th minute.

The game was sealed in the 17th minute when Andriots converted a penalty. Two minutes earlier Clifton Hill missed a penalty through Petropoulos who shot wide.

Clifton's corner. Macleod was a reasonable side but had no answer to Valley's precision passing game. In the second half, it was all Valley with superb goals by Curtis, Yearsley and Love.

Mihlides was brilliant on the wing while skipper, Bernie Yearsley played a captain's game in midfield. Young Robby Love was outstanding at left back. All in all, it was a superb display by every player.

DIVISION THREE
WEST MELBOURNE 1 PASCOE VALE 5 (Centorino 3, Apostolovski, Lazarou).

PASCOE VALE: Marmara, Gardiner, Bobojan, Ristovski, Oznovska, Gapszewski (Trelkovski), Bogovicki, Gole, Apostolovski, Cantorino, Lazarou.

DIVISION FOUR
DIAMOND VALLEY 5 (Peake 23rd, Campani 34th, Curtis 65th, Yearsley 84th,

Irvine bags two

CROYDON 3 (Irvine 80th, 86th, Nolan 70th) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Bitsonis 14th) at Croydon Park, Sunday.

CROYDON: Kastner 7 — Singleton 7, Dobson 7, McCombe 7, Hobson 8 — Brown 7, Rooney 7, Wade 8 — Sweeney 7, Irvine 9, Nolan 7. Coach: Bill McArthur.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Perrea 9 — Anazakis 8, Kakantonis 8, Kalifetidis 8, Kaiser 7 — Bitsonis 6, Abraham 7, Batziovski 6 (van Edmond 75th), Belanits 7 (Hoop 75th), Buljivic 7, Kalambokis 7. Coach: Jim Armstrong.

Jim Kalambokis could have changed the direction of this game in the 65th minute but, with visitor Hellas leading 1-0, Kalambokis shot over from three metres, blowing a chance of setting Croydon a two goal deficit to chase with just 25 minutes remaining.

The young Hellas striker, rather than shoot early with his "bad" foot, his right, dragged the ball down, allowing a Croydon defender and goalkeeper Lou Kastner to get back on the goal line, then shot over from point blank range.

Hellas hit the front in the 14th minute. John Bitsonis came in from the right, latching onto a long, through ball and flicking it past Kastner from eight metres to make it 1-0.

Five minutes after Kalambokis' glaring miss, Croydon hit back when a long pass from the left fell for Terry Nolan who stuck it past advancing Mark Perrea.

Steve Irvine put the home side in front in the 80th minute. Nolan's free kick from the right found tall Steve McCombe at the back post who kicked the ball back across goal. Irvine, on an acute angle, turned superbly and thumped

STARS FROM THE WEST

For the second year running the western region has won the Victorian Under-14 regional championship.

Coach Juan Hompar has been at the helm for both successes, backed by assistant coach Patricio Barrera, ex-Slavia player and coach of Slavia's reserve team last year, and manager Juan Jimenez.

The regional titles were held from April 10 to 17, involving seven regional outfits which encompassed most of the best under-14 players in Victoria.

The quality and depth of Hompar's western region outfit is best evidenced by the call-up, to the Victorian under-14 squad, of eight western region players.

The western region's record in the championship reads: Played seven, won five, drew one and lost one. The team (pictured, above) is: Back row: Juan Hompar (coach), Juan Jimenez (manager), Alex Kyriazopoulos (Sunshine George Cross), John Papamail (Sunshine-George Cross), Spencer Beech (Altona City); Jack Caran (Croatia), Jimmy Hatzilazarou (Sunshine-George Cross), Reno Disasto (Albion Rovers), John Markovic (Kew Austria), Juan Rubio (Slavia), Patricio Barrera (assistant coach). Front row: Boris Boziovski (Sunshine-George Cross), Zeljko Gugula (Croatia), Andrew Marth (Sunshine-George Cross), Colin Cooper (Altona City), Andrew Zsembery (Kew Austria), Peter Kadielk (Albion Rovers), Carlos Vergara (Slavia), Charlie Sant (Green Gully Ajax).

the ball into the roof of the net from about eight metres out.

The former Doveton striker bagged his second and Croydon's third about six minutes later. Gary Hobson's throw-in was nodded on by new Scottish import Joe Sweeney, to Paul Wade who laid the ball back and Irvine cracked it in from 18 metres out.

Sweeney is going to be a great asset for Croydon. He works hard off the ball, shields and turns well, and has good vision and disposal.

WE WERE WRONG!
Our Melton v Hawkeburn match report in last week's issue contained an error.

Only five players were booked in the game, not seven as reported. Peter Hawkeburn players were cautioned and one Melton player.



Schoolboy results

Results of the South Melbourne Hellas Schoolboys Cup:

St. Leo's 1 Kew High 8; Kingswood 1 Heidelberg High 1 (Heidelberg High won 5-3 on penalties); Camberwell High 0 Springvale High 9; Thornbury High 4 Westall High 1; Murrumbidgee High 4 St. Pauls 3; Mount Lilydale 0 Huntingdale High 4; St. Bedes 2 CBC St Kilda 5.

Draw for this week's quarter-finals with likely winners in capitals:

WEDNESDAY (Today)
Kick-off 1.30 pm
MAZENOD v Huntingdale High; HEIDELBERG HIGH v Murrumbidgee High; Springvale High v Kew High.
FRIDAY
K.O. 1.30 pm
Thornbury High v CBC ST KILDA.

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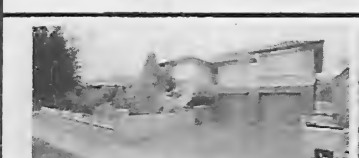
BOTH AWARD WINNERS WILL FLY THAI INTERNATIONAL

Victoria		Scores, ladders		Scores, ladders	
BUFFALO STATE LEAGUE Albany Braves Franklin Braves 0-1, Warren 3-1, Murrell Falcons v Crusis (5-3) (P/P), Juventus v Paloma (1-2) (S-1), Bushings-Sarge Crusis v Doves (1-2) (1-2) (S-1), Crusis v Halls (5-1) (S-1), Bus Hill v Ape (1-1) (S-1), Northerns v Withams (1-2) (S-1)		BUFFALO METROPOLITAN LEAGUE West v Richmond (0-0) (S-3), Franklin v Pine v Murrell (0-0) (S-3), Warren v Albany City (1-2) (S-1), Bush Park v Crusis (0-0) (S-1) (1-2) (S-1), Murrell v Bush City (1-0) (S-1), Albany v New Park Rangers (0-0) (S-1)		OVERSEAS Results: Australia 1, Ples & England 2, Coven & Gomers 1, Juventus 2, Fiorentina 1, Azzurri 4 Gomers 1, Napoli 6, Inter 8, Fiorentina 1 Verona 1, Udinese 9, Sampdoria 4	
DIVISION 1 Richmond v Springfield City (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Murrell City (1-2) (1-2), St Albans v Phoenix (2-2) (1-1), Waverley City v Dandenong City (1-2) (S-1), Thomaston v Azzurri (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Waverley JUST (2-1) (S-1), Richmond v Azzurri (2-0) (1-1)		INTERSTATE S.A. v Adelaide 3, Port Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1 Port Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1 Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1 Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1, Adelaide 1		ITALY Results: Australia 1, Ples & England 2, Coven & Gomers 1, Juventus 2, Fiorentina 1, Azzurri 4 Gomers 1, Napoli 6, Inter 8, Fiorentina 1 Verona 1, Udinese 9, Sampdoria 4	
DIVISION 2 Springfield City v Murrell City (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Murrell City (1-2) (1-2), St Albans v Phoenix (2-2) (1-1), Waverley City v Dandenong City (1-2) (S-1), Thomaston v Azzurri (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Waverley JUST (2-1) (S-1), Richmond v Azzurri (2-0) (1-1)		ENGLISH DIV 1 Liverpool 1, Arsenal 1, Tottenham 1, Manchester United 1, Chelsea 1, Everton 1, Newcastle United 1, Aston Villa 1, Birmingham City 1, Nottingham Forest 1, Derby County 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1, Ipswich Town 1, QPR 1, Millwall 1		ENGLISH DIV 4 Huddersfield 1, Rochdale 1, Grimsby 1, Lincoln City 1, Notts County 1, Doncaster 1, Scunthorpe 1, Macclesfield 1, Wrexham 1, Colchester 1, Luton 1, Barnet 1, Boreham Wood 1, Hemel Hempstead 1, Stevenage 1,	
DIVISION 3 Springfield City v Murrell City (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Murrell City (1-2) (1-2), St Albans v Phoenix (2-2) (1-1), Waverley City v Dandenong City (1-2) (S-1), Thomaston v Azzurri (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Waverley JUST (2-1) (S-1), Richmond v Azzurri (2-0) (1-1)		ENGLISH DIV 2 Tottenham 1, Arsenal 1, Tottenham 1, Manchester United 1, Chelsea 1, Everton 1, Newcastle United 1, Aston Villa 1, Birmingham City 1,		SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV Celtic 1, Rangers 1, Aberdeen 1, Dundee United 1, St Johnstone 1, Motherwell 1,	
DIVISION 4 Springfield City v Murrell City (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Murrell City (1-2) (1-2), St Albans v Phoenix (2-2) (1-1), Waverley City v Dandenong City (1-2) (S-1), Thomaston v Azzurri (1-1) (S-1), Northerns City v Waverley JUST (2-1) (S-1), Richmond v Azzurri (2-0) (1-1)		ENGLISH DIV 3 Tottenham 1, Arsenal 1, Tottenham 1, Manchester United 1, Chelsea 1, Everton 1, Newcastle United 1, Aston Villa 1, Birmingham City 1,		SCOTTISH DIV 2 Celtic 1, Rangers 1, Aberdeen 1, Dundee United 1, St Johnstone 1, Motherwell 1,	

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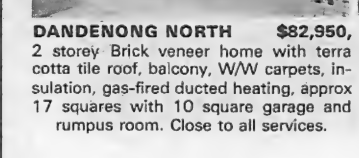
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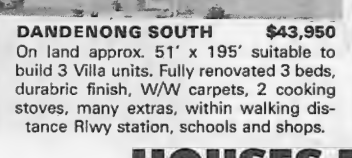
DANDENONG CENTRAL \$29,950
2 bed ground floor flat, B/I robes, W/W carpets, all-electric services, close to shops, ideal for first home buyer.



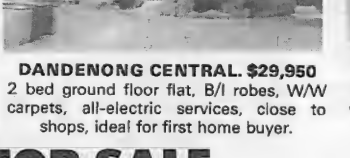
DANDENONG CENTRAL \$37,000
Established 4 Br Villa Units of 2 beds and bathroom. Close to shopping centre Strata title.



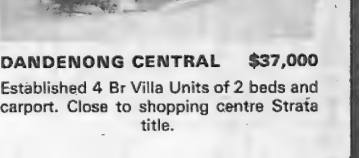
DANDENONG CENTRAL \$32,000
W/B in need of renovation, on block suitable for 2/3 bed Villa Units. Close to all services.



DANDENONG CENTRAL \$45,000 each
Brand new top finish Villa units each of 2 beds, B/I robes, separate laundry. All gas services, L/U garage, landscape garden, good value.



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It's Germany v Italy once more

Juventus v Hamburg... Real Madrid v Aberdeen... Benfica v Anderlecht... they're the three big European finals!

In Hamburg, a goal by 21-year-old Thomas von Heesen eight minutes from time earned Hamburger SV (HSV) its second appearance in the European Cup final.

Hamburg's Austrian manager Ernst Happel had had a 1000-mark (450) bet that his team would qualify.

Von Heesen's late winner gave the West Germans a 2-1 win over Spanish champion Real Sociedad which was enough to put them into the final in Athens on May 25 on a slender 3-2 aggregate.

Hamburg, runner-up to England's Nottingham Forest in 1980, moved 2-1 ahead overall when Dittmar Jakobs scored in the 75th minute but the Spaniards appeared to have earned a reprieve when international midfielder Diego levelled the aggregate score at 2-2 just four minutes later.

Then, with the clock ticking away and extra-time looming, von Heesen, a surprise choice in a three-man Hamburg attack, scored the all-important winner.

The goal was tinged with an element of luck. Defender Manfred Kaltz took a corner which World Cup teammate Felix McGrath struck goalwards, his shot bouncing off Jakobs' groin into the path of von Heesen who banged it into the net.

It was an uncomfortable blow for Jakobs but it struck gold for Hamburg which hopes to go one better than compatriot Bayern Munich, beaten by England's Aston Villa in last year's final.

In Warsaw, the all-star cast of Juventus reached the final of the European Cup with a trouble-torn 2-2 draw with Widzew Lodz.

Juventus, 2-0 up from the first leg of this semi-final, moved further ahead through World Cup hero Paolo Rossi in the 33rd minute.

But its concentration was wrecked 10 minutes into the second half when Krzysztof Surlit reduced the overall deficit to 3-1.

EUROPEAN CUP

In Warsaw: JUVENTUS (Italy) 2 WIDZEW LODZ (Poland) 2 (1-0).

Scorers: Juventus — Paolo Rossi (33rd minute), Michel Platini (83, penalty); Widzew — Surlit (65 and 80).

Attendance: 40,000.

Juventus wins 2-0 on aggregate and meets Hamburg in the final.

In Hamburg: HAMBURG (West Germany) 2 REAL SOCIEDAD (Spain) 1 (half-time 0-0).

Scorers: Hamburg — Jakobs, von Heesen; Real — Diego.

Attendance: 61,000.

Hamburg qualified for the final 3-2 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

In Madrid: REAL MADRID (Spain) 3 AUSTRIA VIENNA (Austria) 1 (half-time 1-0).

Scorers: Real — Santillana (10 and 93 min), Juanito (71); Austria — Juan Jose (own goal 68).

Real wins 5-3 on aggregate and meets Aberdeen in the final in Gothenburg on May 11.

Attendance: 70,000.

In Brussels: WANDERLECHT (Belgium) 1 ABERDEEN (Scotland) 0.

Aberdeen wins 5-2 on aggregate.

UEFA CUP

In Brussels: ANDERLECHT (Belgium) 3 BOHEMIANS PRAGUE (Czechoslovakia) 1 (half-time 2-0).

Scorers: Anderlecht — Vandenberg (penalty), Brylle, Czerniatynski; Bohemians Prague — Jakubec.

Attendance: 40,000.

Anderlecht wins 4-1 on aggregate and meets Benfica of Portugal in the final.

In Craiova: UNIVERSITATEA CRAIOVA (Romania) 1 BENFICA (Portugal) 1 (half-time 1-0).

Scorers: Craiova — Balaci (17th min); Benfica — Filipovic (57).

Attendance: 40,000.

Aggregate score 1-1. Benfica qualifies for the final on away goals rule.

With 40,000 Polish fans roaring their delight a bottle was thrown from the packed LKS Lodz terraces and struck a linesman on the back of the head.

Dutch referee Charles Corver immediately led the players from the pitch while police searched the crowd and eventually detained a bedraggled youth.

When peace was restored 20 minutes later, the match resumed and Surlit struck again 10 minutes from the end to reduce Juventus-led to 3-2.

But Juventus, runner-up to Ajax Amsterdam in 1973, secured its second European Cup final appearance when French World Cup captain Michel Platini converted an 83rd minute penalty.

Real Madrid, playing at home, recalled the bygone days of its glorious past when it reached its 11th European soccer final at the expense of Austria Vienna.

Real, six times Champions' Cup winners, went into the Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final with a 1-0 first-leg lead and

wasted little time in increasing its advantage.

Even without injured West German international Uli Stielke, Real overpowered the Austrians from the start and moved 2-0 ahead overall when World Cup striker Santillana, the competition's top scorer with eight goals, beat goalkeeper Friedl Koncilila.

Real was already looking forward to the final with Scotland's Aberdeen in Gothenburg on May 11 when the Austrians unexpectedly came back into the game through an own goal by Juan Jose in the 68th minute.

Stung by that reverse, Real put the result beyond doubt just three minutes later when winger Juanito, the darling of the Bernabeu terraces, crowned a 30-metre run.

Aberdeen reached the final despite losing 0-1 to Waterschei of Belgium.

In Craiova, Benfica of Portugal gave Romania's Universitatea Craiova an object lesson in the art of finishing when it qualified for the final of the European Football



Zoran Filipovic

Union (UEFA) Cup on away goals.

Craiova, which held Benfica to a goalless draw in the first leg of this semi-final in Lisbon, got off to the best possible start when international midfielder Balaci scored with an exquisite free-kick in the 17th minute.

But from that point the Romanians were sadly out of touch in front of goal and Benfica — twice European Cup winner — and three times runner-up — reached its sixth major final when Yugoslav striker Zoran Filipovic scored an opportunistic equaliser 12 minutes after the interval.

Craiova made a determined start in its bid to become the first Romanian club to reach a European final with Balaci — the hero of Saturday's win over world champion Italy — in outstanding form.

Balaci put his side ahead when Craiova was awarded a free-kick two metres outside the box. He curled a delightful shot over the defensive wall and although international goalkeeper bento got both hands to the ball he could only help it into the net.

However, the pendulum swung in the second half as Benfica set off in search of the precious equaliser, which came when Filipovic pounced on a long free-kick.

Anderlecht of Belgium cruised into the final of the UEFA Cup final when it beat Bohemians Prague of Czechoslovakia 3-1 in Brussels.

Anderlecht, which won 4-1 on aggregate, goes through to its third European final in seven years where it will play Benfica of Portugal.

F.I.F.A. rules out U.S. and Canada

The governing body of world soccer today cancelled visits to the United States and Canada, signalling an apparent end to North American hopes of hosting the World Cup Finals in 1986.



From JIM COOK our European correspondent

In a telex message to the U.S. Soccer Federation (USFF), the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), strongly indicated that Mexico would be selected as the site of the finals.

Villa to Betis?

Ricky Villa, Spurs' Argentinian player reputed to getting in the region of \$4000 a week, but offered considerably less on a new contract, is likely to move to Spanish soccer, probably to Real Betis — thanks to Diego Maradona's company Maradona Promotions which has already handled the transfers of several Argentinian players to Spain this season and also acted for Cesar Monti in his move to Barcelona.

Harvey back

John Lukic, the Leeds and England under 21 keeper transfer-listed at his own request, has been replaced by David Harvey, 35, who gave the Yorkshire club many years' service before spending the past three seasons with Vancouver Whitecaps.

Moore in U.S.

World Cup legend Bobby Moore has gone to America as the new No. 2 to one-time Manchester City and England star Rodney Marsh who is general manager of Carolina Lighting in the USA Soccer League. Moore, 42, recently returned to England after a spell in Hong Kong soccer.

Anderlecht, which won 4-1 on aggregate, goes through to its third European final in seven years where it will play Benfica of Portugal.

Simonson back home

Danish international star Allan Simonson who returned to his old club Vejle after an 11 year absence and his recent release by Charlton Athletic, pulled in 6000 fans to the away game with Koeege — 10 times the normal gate. But Simonson failed to show his old magic; his side was beaten, he sustained an ankle injury before half time and had to go off and the crowd emptied the ground long before the finish.

Batson finished?

Brendan Batson, the 38-year-old West Bromwich Albion defender born in Granada, fears his playing days may be over. Batson, out of action for six months after a cartilage operation, says the knee is no better and has been told he needs further surgery.

Public outcry

Public opinion is strongly against the Football League signing up Telefe to show games in pubs and clubs in place of on the home screens. So it's odds on that the BCC/ITV offer will yet be accepted — providing that they permit shirt advertising.

Mueller marries

West German international Hansi Mueller has finally married his long-time girlfriend Claudia but the celebrations were dampened by the fact that his action in trying to recover 31,000 marks allegedly owed to him by former club Stuttgart had failed.

Rich Italians

Italian soccer celebrated its richest day on Sunday, April 9, when its eight First Division games pulled in 312,000 fans and produced \$3,600,000 in gate receipts.

Robertson to Derby?

John Robertson, the 30-year-old Nottingham Forest and Scotland winger whose contract with Brian Clough expires this summer is a target for Peter Taylor of Derby County — Clough's former assistant for many years. Robertson, Forest's longest-serving player after 14 years is reputed to earn \$1700 per week. Derby's revival motivated by Taylor is also due in some part to mid season signing Archie Gemmill, an ex-Forest and Scotland player.

Foreign legion

Watershei of Belgium has a large number of foreign players in its side including Hungarian international defender Martos, Iceland international striker Laurs Gudmundsson, Dutchman Eddie Voordeckers and German goalkeeper Klaus Pudelke. Pudelke, 34, still resides over the border in Aachen and travels to train and work in the Belgian industrial town of Gork as he prefers to bring up his children in a rural area.

\$40 Best

George Best was getting only \$40 a week in his comeback bid with Bournemouth. Two years ago with Hibs he got \$5000 weekly.

National titles look to 1985

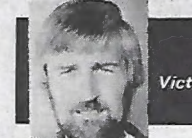
The National Youth Championships will take place in Canberra from May 18 to 22. This constitutes the beginning of preparations for the next Australian youth team to compete in the 1985 World Youth Cup.

Coincidentally the present team leaves for Mexico on the day that this year's national championship begins.

What better incentive than this year's youngsters have as they dream, that in two years it will be they who board the plane to play in the finals.

Our decisions to take part in the World Youth Cup has added extra glamour and excitement and had injected extra meaning into our national youth championships.

This year's competitors obviously are younger as they



TIM WHITE
Victorian coaching director

begin the two year build-up for the next World Youth Cup. The qualifying birth date for both

competitions is on or after August 1, 1965. So in fact this year's State Youth players are under 17.

Next year's qualifying date is the same so States have the opportunity to work with their squads for two championships which in turn allows the National youth coach more opportunity to assemble his squad.

This year Jim Shoulder from the Australian Institute of Sport will select 40 boys for an initial National Squad. National coach Les Scheinflug will be in Mexico but on his return an initial squad is at his disposal.

Each State plays five games over a period of five days so it is a pretty exacting tournament for all concerned.

The final will be played at Bruce Stadium in Canberra on Sunday May 22 at 1.30 pm.

The year 1985 will see the end of imported players. There are strong arguments for an against the total ban of imported players but we are informed that this ban will take place.

That being the case, the time spent in nurturing youngsters is of the utmost importance to the future of the clubs. Next month the best 16 and 17 year-olds in the country will be all gathered together, competing to be Australian Youth Champions.

I have attended several Youth Championships and National League and State League coaches have been very conspicuous by their absence.

The fact that they could pick up imports cheaper than local products could be one of the reasons. However in view of the proposed import ban, I suggest the 1983 National Youth Championships is a must for our top coaches.

The National Youth Championships will be attended by Ron Greenwood, the former England manager and his views on our up and coming youngsters will be of great interest to us all.



Much has been made of Les Scheinflug's preference for guiding his young charges in Mexico, rather than staying at home to cross swords with Bobby Robson and his England team in June.

Scheinflug though will still be pitting his wits against one of Britain's most respected coaches, for Scotland's youth coach Andy Roxburgh has few peers in instructing football skills and tactics.

He was recently appointed to FIFA's elite group of 16 official coaches.

Already Roxburgh, who hung up his boots in 1974, has gained far more success in coaching than he achieved as a player.

His playing career lost its momentum after he gained international caps at school-boys and youth levels.

Sought by Clydebank, Rangers and Partick Thistle upon leaving school, he wisely chose the latter, as they allowed him to study at the Glasgow College of Physical Education.

A speedy striker, Roxburgh did not have sufficient all-round skills to become anything more than a slightly-above-average Scottish

Roxburgh:
Scheinflug's
adversary

League player during ten years serving Queen's Park, Partick, Falkirk and Clydebank.

A Second Division championship medal with Falkirk was his one senior honor. At Clydebank, he became assistant manager, before being appointed the Scottish Football Association Director of Coaching in 1976.

A major facet of the job entailed the reconstruction of Scotland's youth coaching policy. Roxburgh revolutionised a previously archaic system, elevating it to the envy of the rest of Europe.

Today it is virtually impossible for a talented Scottish teenager to avoid the Director's attention. Celtic's Paul McStay first caught his eye as 15-year-old.

The highlight of the seven-year reign was last season's UEFA Youth Cup triumph, when the unfancied Scots accounted for Holland, Turkey, Albania, Poland and Czechoslovakia to win the trophy.

That success, Scotland's first, made it one of the favorites for the Coca Cola Cup and cast its coach under the spotlight.

Andy Roxburgh



Les Scheinflug

Such is his popularity, that an opinion poll revealed Roxburgh to be the man most favored by Scottish fans to succeed Jack Stein as senior team manager.

Roxburgh, who has never coached a senior side, is an outsider for that coveted post, though. He was, only a few weeks ago, quoted as saying: "My job is more about education than winning matches."

This suggests that he does not relish stepping into the cut-throat world of full international soccer.

It appears then that Roxburgh will be free to concentrate upon improving his already remarkable record with Scotland Youth of only eight losses from over 80 matches.

— PAUL MOON

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profittando anche della espulsione del libero avversario Xanthopoulos, Hamilton Metteva a segno una doppietta dopo che Clockner aveva portato la sua squadra in vantaggio. E' ancora presto per azzardare pronostici, ma il Brisbane Azzurri e' indubbiamente una bella realta' che continuerà a fare onore al calcio italiano in Australia, qualunque sia il verdetto finale del campionato.

UN MARCONI DA FUTURO

Altra bella nota positiva e' venuta dall'ex grande Marconi che oggi e' appantato nei quartieri bassi della classifica, ma che possiede il piu' grande potenziale di qualsiasi squadra in Australia. I giovani Hunter, attualmente alquanto appannati, James, Carbone, Licata, Brown, McCulloch e Rizzotto formano un drappello di campioni del futuro da far ben sperare per la definitiva riaffermazione del club di Bossley Park. Domenica la vittoria contro il fanalino di coda del JUST era pressoché scontata, ma l'autorita' con la quale i ragazzi granata si sono imposti e' stata, dir poco, meravigliosa. Rizzotto ha dimostrato la calma e la eleganza di un veterano nel controllare il pericoloso Paton o qualsiasi altro attaccante che si e' avventurato nella sua zona; Brown e McCulloch, e quindi Licata, subentrato nel secondo tempo a O'Rourke, hanno fatto vedere i classici sorci verdi alla difesa jugoslava. Carbone ha fatto un ottimo lavoro a centrocampo e il portiere James, ancora giovanissimo per un portiere, ha agilità e freddezza da vendere.

Non sappiamo quanto sia stato piano e quanto sia stato caso in questo potenziamento del talento locale da parte del Marconi, ma non possiamo che dar merito ai responsabili granata per il coraggio di rischiare qualche annata magra per darsi la possibilità di "crescere" di forza propria.

L'APIA e la Juventus Adelaide stanno finora conducendo dei campionati deludenti, ma la prima dovrebbe migliorare con il passare delle settimane. La Juventus, invece, sta accusando un lento logoramento dopo le grandi annate in Lega Statale e l'ottimo inizio nella Lega Nazionale. Ovviamente il mercato limitato di Adelaide, dove gli Azzurri per di più sono venuti fuori come il secondo scomodo nella comunità italiana, non permette un comportamento sostenuto della squadra.

PIU' ITALIANE IN LEGA NAZIONALE
La inevitabile ristrutturazione della Lega Nazionale in due gironi, indubbiamente aumenterà il contingente italiano in Lega Nazionale il prossimo anno con la scontata inclusione della Juventus di Melbourne e quella probabile dell'Inter Monaro a Canberra.

Quando diciamo "scontato" inclusione per la Juventus di Melbourne, ci riferiamo alle grandi tradizioni, al grande richiamo e alle infinite possibilità di pubblico che offre "la vecchia signora" rispetto ai "cuccioli" di Fawkner e ai "cugini di campagna" di Morwell che, nonostante i successi degli ultimi anni e la solida base amministrativa-finanziaria, non hanno le possibilità di riunire sotto i suoi colori la maggior parte della tifoseria nostrana. La Juventus potrebbe perdere questo suo "sacro diritto" solo se non sopra prepararsi al grande passo per limitazioni amministrative e per mancanza di visione da parte dei suoi capi, ma per ora inesperti, dirigenti che debbono ancora dare un inconfutabile buon esempio prima di poter contare sul sostegno a larga base della comunità italiana di Melbourne.

Il campionato statale del Victoria ha riservato una giornata amara per le "italiane" della massima divisione, solo parzialmente addolcita dai due punti immeritabilmente guadagnati dal Fawkner.

La Juventus e' stata quasi beffata dal Belonia che avrebbe dovuto accusare un pesante passivo prima ancora che potesse avere velleità di vincere. I bianconeri hanno accusato, purtroppo, la carenza di incisività in attacco più che in altre occasioni. Innanzitutto perché la difesa polacca, guidata da un superlativo e deciso Mila, non si e' mai scomposta al punto da consentire reti di centrocampisti avventurosi; secondariamente perché la difesa di Pat Bannon e compagni ha ingenuamente regalato più reti di quanto i compagni di prima linea erano riusciti faticosamente a racimolare.

Ma, andiamo per ordine. La Juventus scende in campo con Zinni ancora in precarie condizioni fisiche tanto da essere nuovamente osteso ad abbandonare a metà gara, così ricavando molto poco da uno dei suoi giocatori più preziosi. Lloyd, e' bene che lo si riconosca una volta per tutte, e' un prezioso centrocampista che svolge una enorme mole di lavoro e contrasta con caparbia tutte le mosse avversarie nella sua zona, ma al massimo può giocare da mezzapunta poiché e' troppo lento nel tiro finale. Queston lascia sulle spalle pur capaci di incantarlo la maggior responsabilità offensiva della Juventus. L'unica speranza con il materiale umano a disposizione sarebbe Nelson che, se non altra e' molto lesto di piede ed ha il dono di sparare da qualsiasi posizione. Non bisogna dimenticare a questo proposito che il ragazzo sul finire del campionato scorso andò spesso a centro da mischia in area e che domenica, schierato con le riserve nel primo tempo, ha ribadito questa sua spiccata capacità tempestando la rete avversaria. Naturalmente, a corto di partite, ha mancato il bersaglio più volte di quanto lo abbia centrato; ma con l'occhio e la precisione che vengono con la pratica continua potrebbe anche risolvere il problema della prima linea.

French, entrato al posto di Zinni, ha fatto invece assolutamente pena. La soluzione più naturale, però, sarebbe l'acquisto del centravanti che Margaritis dice di aver sotto occhio per qualcosa come \$5.000 e, che per un club che continua a ripetere di avere ambizioni di campionato e che fino ad ora ha speso la modica cifra di \$7.500 in acquisti, non dovrebbe certo essere proibitivo anche se i soldi nell'ambiente della Juventus non crescono certo sugli alberi. Questo mancato sforzo finale farebbe della Juventus un gomitolo di lusso il cui proprietario non può permettersi la benzina per farla camminare. Un centravanti capace di realizzare almeno una parte delle occasioni create dalla squadra farebbe della Juventus una seria candidata alla vittoria di campionato, nonostante la battuta d'arresto di domenica, purché si corra ai ripari prima che sia troppo tardi... e sarà troppo tardi domenica prossima se arriverà una batosta dal Croatia. E meglio dimenticare tutto se la settimana successiva il Green Gully raddoppierà la dose.

Il comitato non può sperare in miracoli dal pubblico dopo alcune partite vinte contro medesima opposizione. Battere il Croatia, il Green Gully e il Morwell sono i passaggi forzati per vincere un campionato. E soltanto una vittoria in campionato sveglierebbe il gran pubblico dal torpore in cui il comportamento della squadra la ha gettato ormai da anni. Lo sforzo, quindi, deve venire dagli uomini che hanno assunto la responsabilità anche se sembrerebbe chieder troppo; la comunità potrà soltanto seguire a risultati acquisiti.

Formando a domenica, la difesa bianca ha commesso un grande errore di ingenuità facendosi attirare fuori da un Polonia che si era saldamente schierato a centrocampo e che non sembrava volesse attaccare con troppa convinzione. Il "nonnetto" Pat Bannon e' cascato nel tranello come un "pivellino" ed e' andato a spasso per il campo su quelle gambe che ormai hanno perso l'energia di recuperare. Con Hird in giornata pateticamente negativa, che può accadere anche a un grande giocatore come lui, il povero O'Rourke e' rimasto troppo solo a guardia di Clayton e sono bastate due veloci contropiedi per dare al Polonia le due reti della sudata vittoria che, alla resa dei conti, non ha proprio rubato per l'intelligente condotta di gara e per la mole di lavoro svolta in difesa e a centrocampo.

FAWKNER VINCE MA NON CONVINCE
Il Fawkner anche domenica scorsa ha offerto una prova molto mediocre, rischiando di essere sepolto da una girandola di reti. Per sua fortuna l'avversario di turno era quell'Albion Rovers che nelle cinque precedenti partite non era ancora riuscito ad andare a segno una volta. Continuando in questa tradizione negativa, l'Albion non e' riuscito a infilarsi in molti dei tanti buchi nella difesa azzurra e, nelle occasioni in cui l'ha fatto, il rientrante Terzini ha provveduto miracolosamente a tapparli. In avanti il Fawkner ha offerto anche molto poco ma, fortunatamente il portiere avversario e' riuscito a deviare in rete con la mano un innocuo tiro di Palinkas dalla linea di fondo che certamente non era stato scagliato con l'intenzione di andare a rete. Oltre a Terzini, Bruno Sabatini si e' distinto con qualche spunto personale, ma Ian Tuffield ha offerto nuovamente una prova malucosa che ha contribuito notevolmente a salvare la propria rete e anche a portare i più seri pericoli in attacco.

Domenica prossima il Fawkner ha la fortuna di incontrare i "ragazzi" dell'Hellas e dovrebbe nuovamente conquistare l'intera porta in ballo mentre continua ancora a tirare il fiato dopo le garbaldine imprese contro Juventus e Morwell. Siamo sicuri che questo altro impegno facile darà a Cirkovic il tempo di trovare le soluzioni ai suoi molti problemi.

IL MORWELL HA BISOGNO DI CALMA
Il Morwell ha rappresentato un sol boccone per il lanciatisimo Croatia che, oltretutto, ha una formazione senza preziosi cambiamenti rispetto all'anno scorso e che ha recuperato il fuoriclasse Cumming per pareggiare la partita di Murphy ceduto all'Hellas. Con una formazione collaudata da tempo, con l'esplosione di alcuni giovani come Covic e con il vento in poppa il suo bottino di 3-0 rientra perfettamente nei pronostici, specialmente in considerazione del fatto che il Morwell e' squadra quasi tutta fatta e perciò ancora lontana dalla piena ideale necessaria per fronteggiare la più formidabile combinazione della Lega Statale. Ovviamente anche a causa della sconfitta subita la settimana scorsa dal Polonia, che si e' riconfermata gran squadra battendo anche la Juventus, a Morwell tira aria di crisi. I responsabili del club dovrebbero invece accettare l'inevitabile con molti più calma e dare a Boggi il tempo e la fiducia di districare la matassa. I giocatori ci sono e il campionato e' ancora lungo e Boggi non e' poi l'ultimo arrivato, specialmente se riesce ad avere la tranquillità d'animo di analizzare le prestazioni individuali e capire quali sono i giocatori che danno tutto e quelli che preferiscono vivere sugli allori di anni trascorsi che non significano niente nel presente.

DOLORI ANCHE PER LA JUVENTUS?
Il paragone a distanza che abbiamo individuato fra Juventus e Morwell, che incontrano le stesse avversarie in settimane successive, sembra continuare a confermare un leggerissimo vantaggio per la Juventus e che risulta fino ad ora così: Croydon, Morwell per 2-1 fuori casa; Juventus 2-0 in casa; Fawkner, Morwell 1-1 in casa; Juventus 0-0 fuori casa; Hellas, Morwell 3-1 fuori casa; Juventus 3-1 in casa; Doveton, Morwell 2-1 in casa; Juventus 2-0 fuori casa; Polonia, Morwell 0-2 fuori casa; Juventus 1-2 in casa.

Questo significherebbe, purtroppo, che la Juventus sarebbe condannata ad una sconfitta per almeno 0-2 domenica prossima, e tale risultato non farebbe una piega. Ma la tradizione che vede la Juventus dare il suo meglio contro le avversarie più forti e, sarebbe bello quanto improbabile, l'arrivo del benedetto centravanti potrebbero far pesare la bilancia dalla parte dei bianconeri. Staremo a vedere.



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